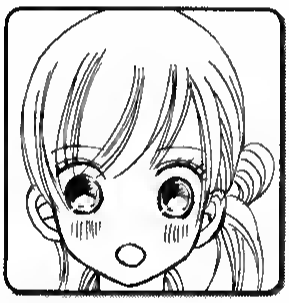
Shojo Beat
We Were There
5
Story & Art by
Yuki Obata

Contents

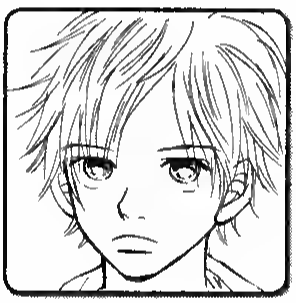
Chapter 17 3
Chapter 18 53
Chapter 19 93
Bonus Story: Run, Baby, Run 134

Characters

Masafumi Takeuchi
Yano's childhood friend. He's kinder and more modest than Yano.



Nanami Takahashi
She's earnest but a bit forgetful at times.

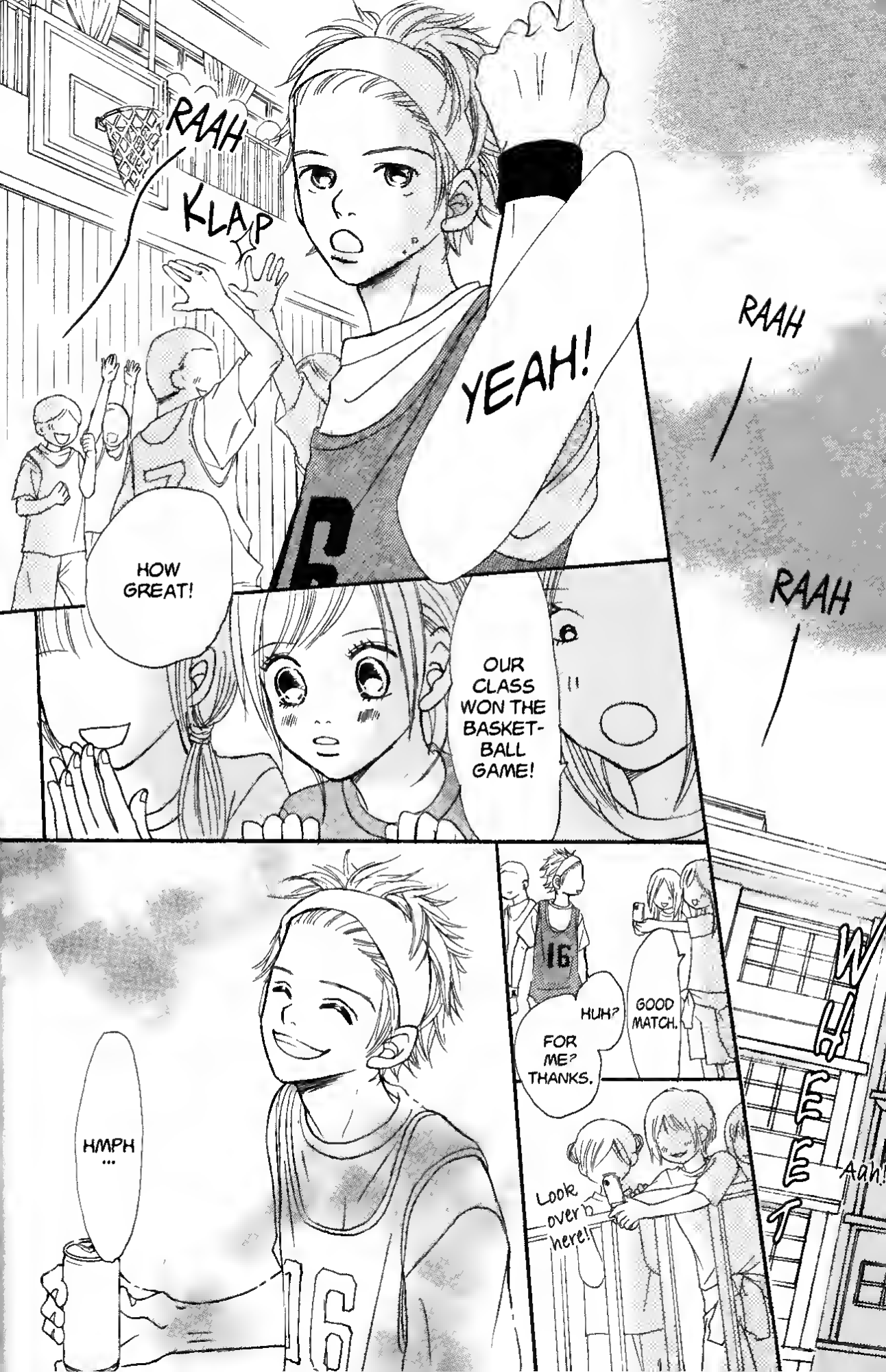


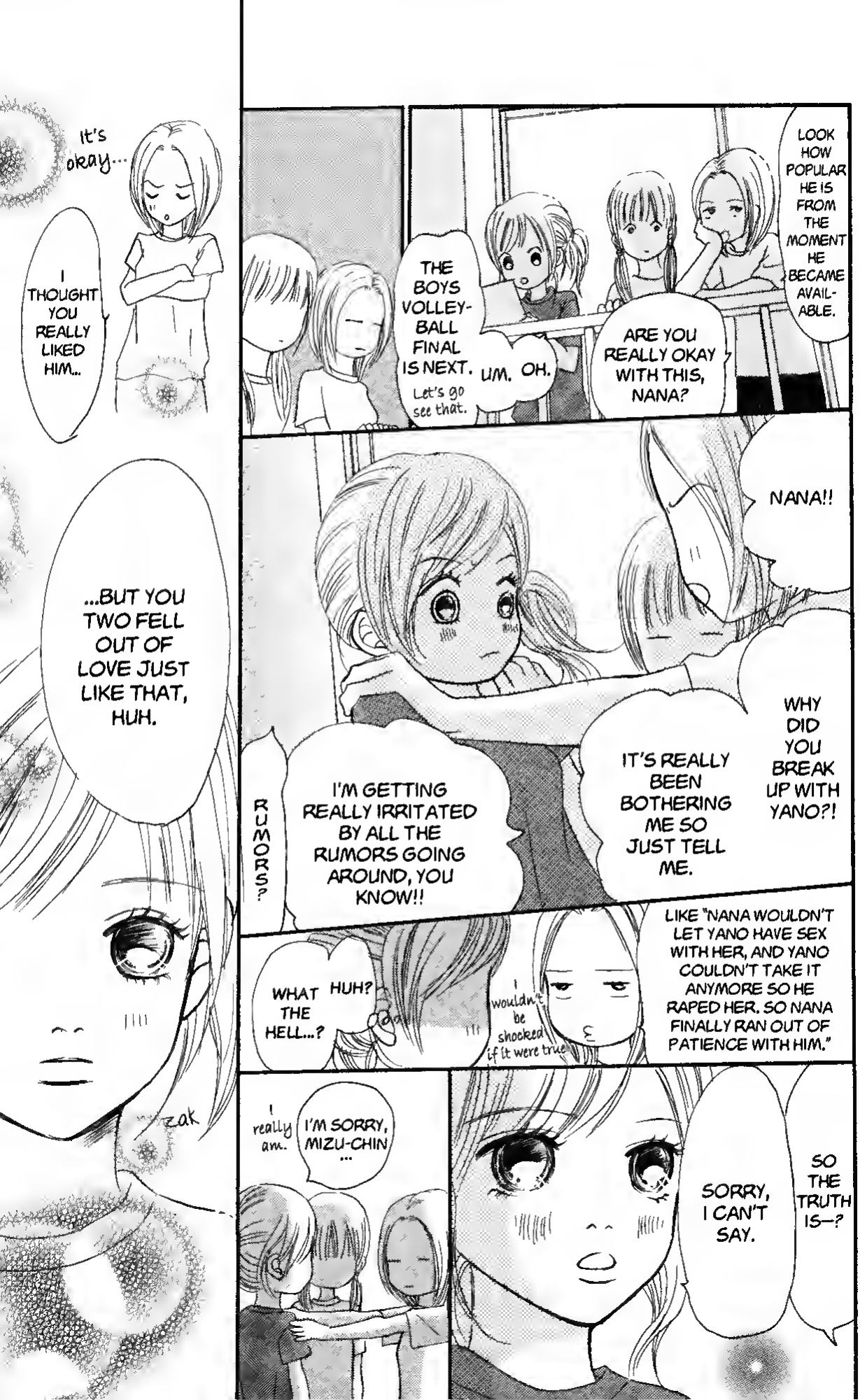
Motoharu Yano
Nanami's popular classmate. His girlfriend Nana-san died.

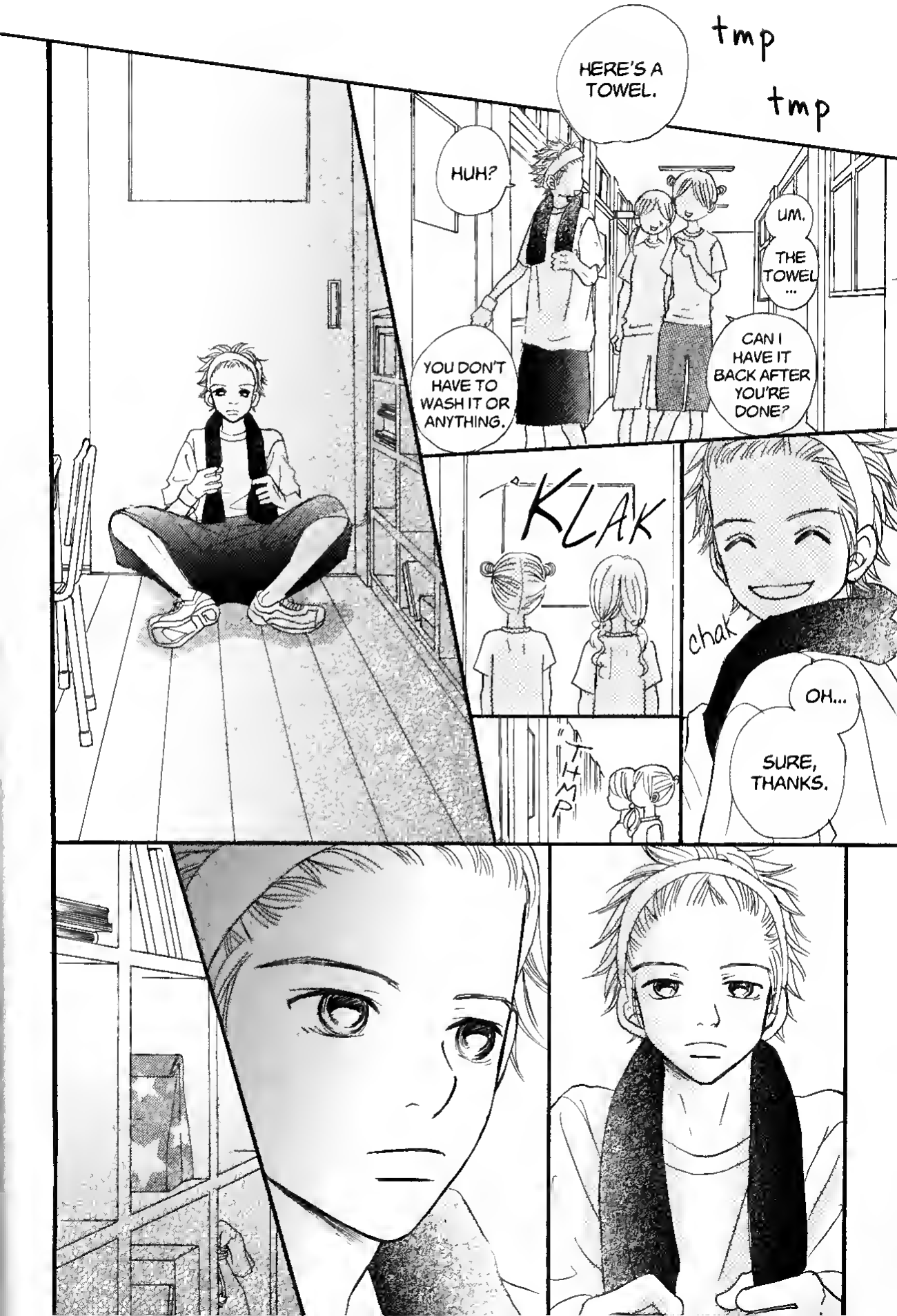
Story

Having fallen in love with Yano, Nanami gradually begins to get the hang of being his girlfriend. But Nanami discovers that he is unable to forget his ex-girlfriend, and believing there is no place for her inside Yano's heart, she breaks up with him...

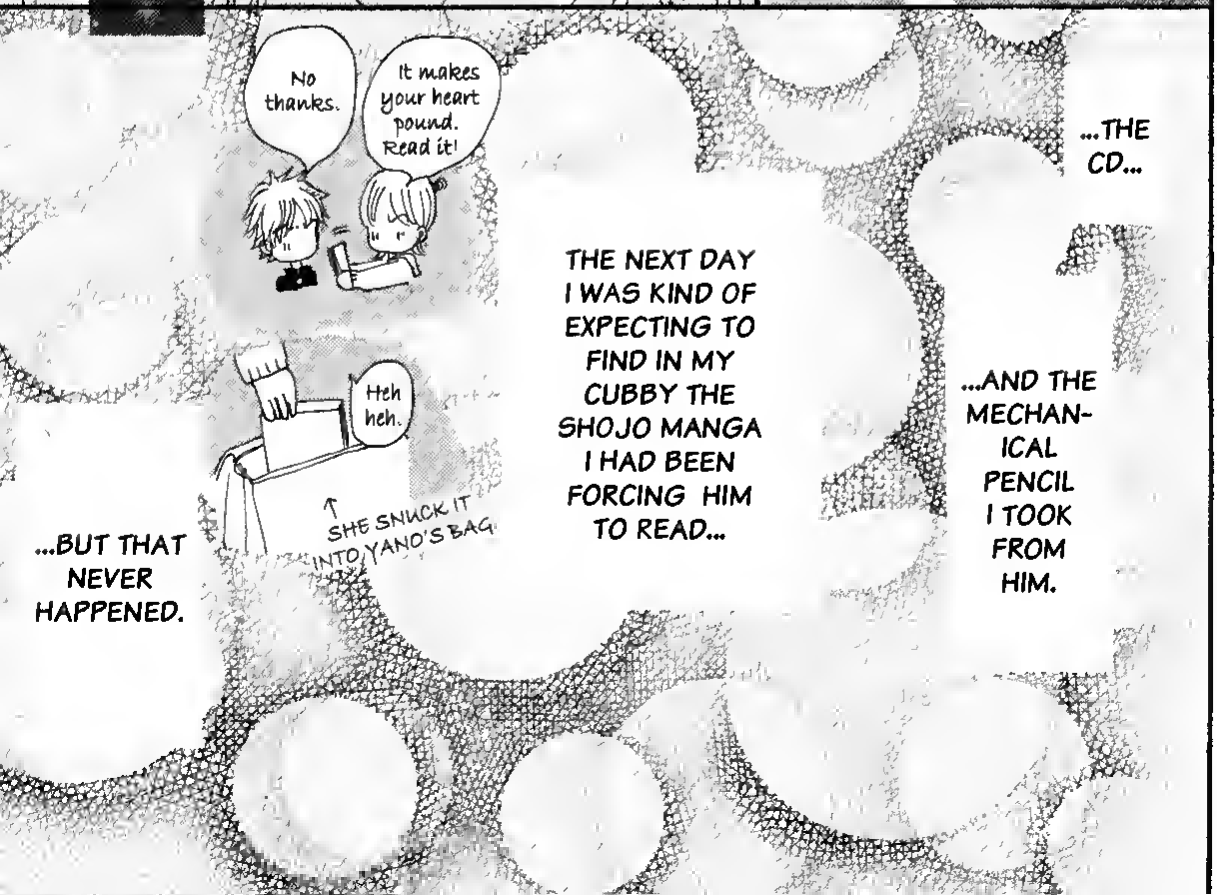
Chapter 17


RAAH
KLAP
YEAH!
RAAH
RAAH
HOW GREAT!
OUR CLASS WON THE BASKET-BALL GAME!
16
HUH?
FOR ME? THANKS.
GOOD MATCH.
Look, over here!
WHEEE
aah!
HMPH ...
16


It's okay...
I THOUGHT YOU REALLY LIKED HIM..
...BUT YOU TWO FELL OUT OF LOVE JUST LIKE THAT, HUH.
zak
LOOK HOW POPULAR HE IS FROM THE MOMENT HE BECAME AVAIL-ABLE.
THE BOYS VOLLEY-BALL FINAL IS NEXT.
Let's go see that.
UM. OH.
ARE YOU REALLY OKAY WITH THIS, NANA?
NANA!!
WHY DID YOU BREAK UP WITH YANO?!
IT'S REALLY BEEN BOTHERING ME SO JUST TELL ME.
I'M GETTING REALLY IRRITATED BY ALL THE RUMORS GOING AROUND, YOU KNOW!!
RUMORS?
LIKE "NANA WOULDN'T LET YANO HAVE SEX WITH HER, AND YANO COULDN'T TAKE IT ANYMORE SO HE RAPED HER. SO NANA FINALLY RAN OUT OF PATIENCE WITH HIM."
I wouldn't be shocked if it were true
HUH?
WHAT THE HELL...?
SO THE TRUTH IS—?
SORRY, I CAN'T SAY.
I'M SORRY, MIZU-CHIN ...
I really am.

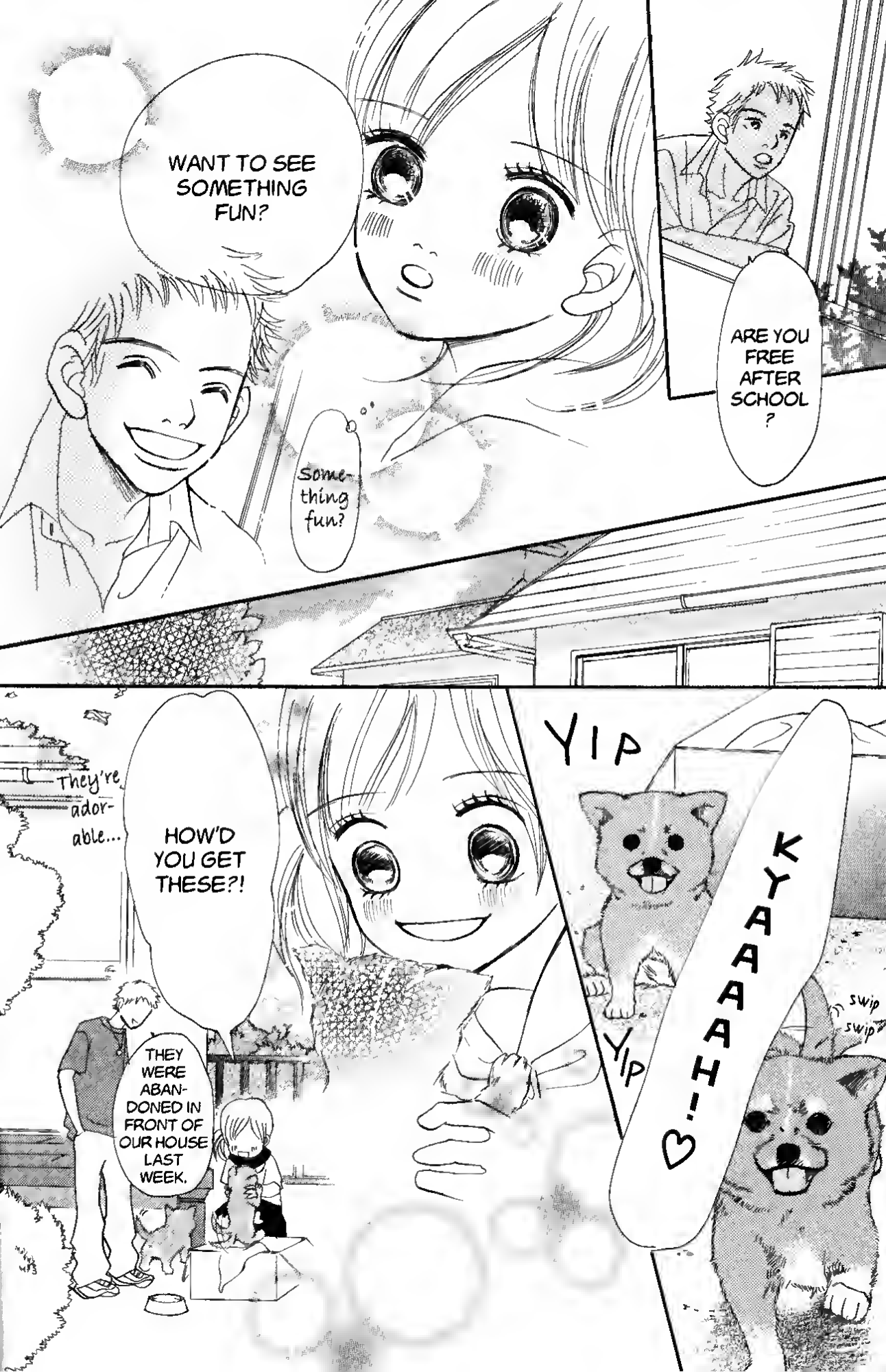

tmp
tmp
HERE'S A TOWEL.
HUH?
UM. THE TOWEL...
CAN I HAVE IT BACK AFTER YOU'RE DONE?
YOU DON'T HAVE TO WASH IT OR ANYTHING.
KLAK
chak
OH...
SURE, THANKS.
tmp

IT'S BEEN ONE WEEK SINCE WE BROKE UP.


No thanks.
It makes your heart pound. Read it!
...THE CD...
THE NEXT DAY I WAS KIND OF EXPECTING TO FIND IN MY CUBBY THE SHOJO MANGA I HAD BEEN FORCING HIM TO READ...
...AND THE MECHAN-ICAL PENCIL I TOOK FROM HIM.
Heh heh.
↑ SHE SNUCK IT INTO YANO'S BAG
...BUT THAT NEVER HAPPENED.

...BECOME STRANGERS AGAIN.
THIS MUST BE HOW WE GRADU-ALLY...
IN CLASS...
...I DON'T EVEN LOOK AT HIM.
HE WAS TWO-TIMING HER.
TWO-TIMING.
THAT COULDN'T BE.
THAT'S THE ONLY REASON THERE IS...
...FOR HIM TO GET DUMPED.
SHE DUMPED HIM BE-CAUSE HE WAS TWO-TIMING.
Look, he doesn't cheat.

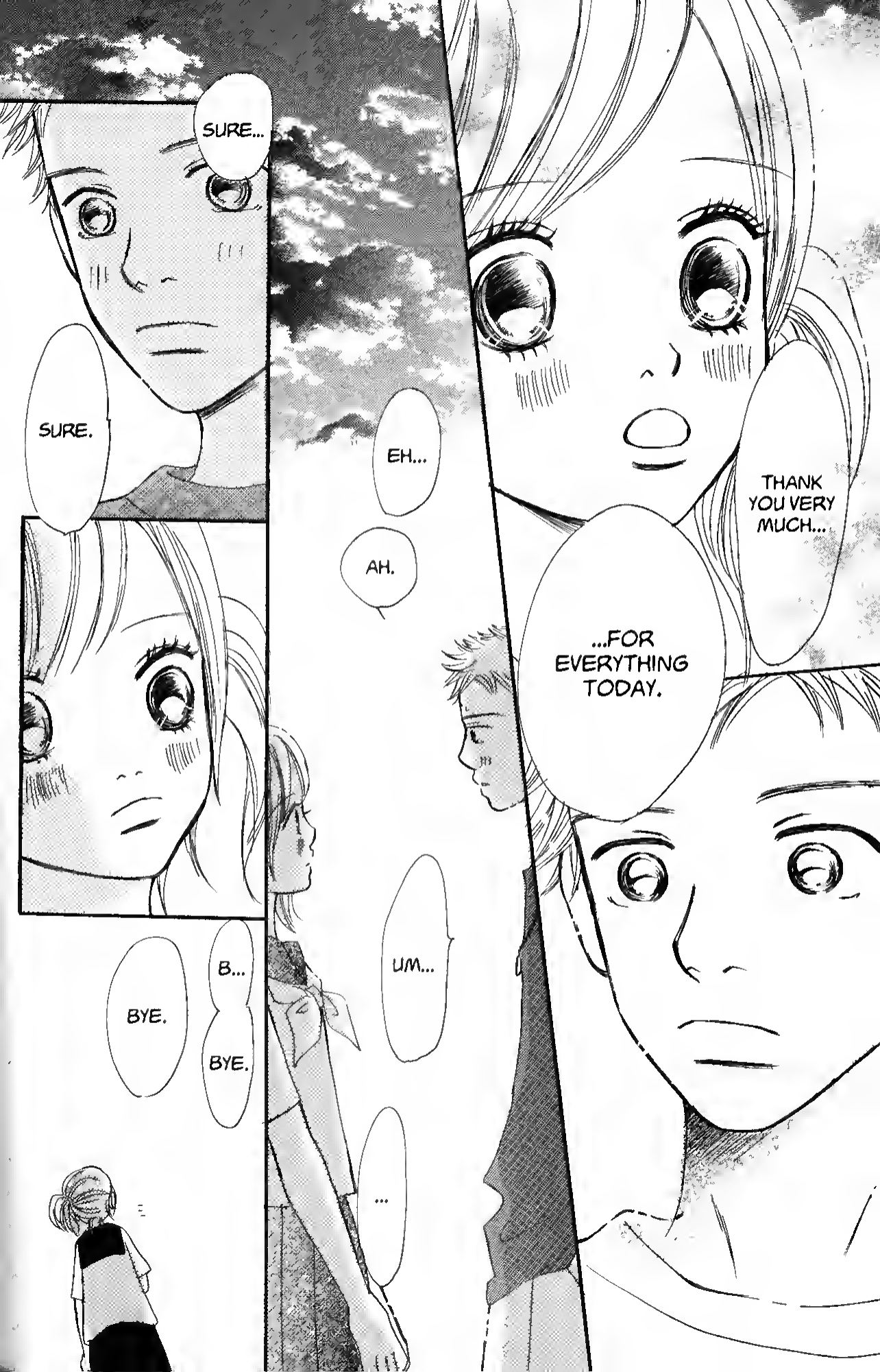
IMPOSSIBLE.
YOU KNOW HE HATED CHEATING TOO MUCH...
...TO EVER TWO-TIME.
NO...
...IT WAS TWO-TIMING.
I'M SURE OF IT.
YEAH.
IN HIS HEAD, YOU KNOW?
...
I FEEL SORRY FOR LITTLE NANA...
...
WHO IS LITTLE NANA?
TO TELL THE TWO APART.
THERE'S "STUPID NANA" (NANA) AND "LITTLE NANA" (NANAMI).
GYAH HA HA!
GEH.
BUT IT'S TRUE, RIGHT?
DORK...
TAKAHASHI.


WANT TO SEE SOMETHING FUN?
ARE YOU FREE AFTER SCHOOL?
Something fun?
HOW'D YOU GET THESE?!
They're adorable...
THEY WERE ABANDONED IN FRONT OF OUR HOUSE LAST WEEK.
YIP
YIP
KYAAAAH!♡
swip swip

HUH? THAT'S TERRIBLE.
I'M LOOKING FOR PEOPLE WHO CAN TAKE ONE...
ARE YOU INTERESTED?
NO, I CAN'T...
My parents don't like pets.
OH WELL...
WHAT IF YOU CAN'T FIND PEOPLE TO TAKE THEM?
Sorry
HMM.
THEN I'VE GOT NO CHOICE ...
WE'LL TAKE THEM IN AT MY HOUSE.
BOTH?
There, there...
WHAT ELSE CAN I DO?
GYAH !
HE'S LICKING MY FACE!!
CUTE, HUH?
It tickles.
HA HA HA!
THERE MUST BE A REASON THAT THEY ENDED UP IN FRONT OF MY HOUSE ...
Right?
YIP
...SO I CAN'T ABANDON THEM TOO, RIGHT?
HM.

I'M GLAD TO SEE YOU LAUGHING AGAIN.
EH?
LAUGHING?
YEAH.
YIP
YIP
I THINK IT'S IMPOR-TANT...
...TO FIND SOME TIME WHEN YOU CAN JUST LAUGH AND FORGET ABOUT EVERYTHING.
YIP
YIP

TAKEUCHI-KUN...
Hey!
Stop that!
...WON'T ASK ME ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED.
...
...
I SEE...
HE'S PROBABLY RIGHT.
IF YOU FEEL LONELY ...
...FEEL FREE TO DROP BY ANYTIME.
UM.
NO...
I DIDN'T MEAN...
THANKS, TAKEUCHI-KUN.
I want to hug them again!
CAN I COME AGAIN?
SURE.
ANY-TIME.


SURE...
SURE.
EH...
AH.
THANK YOU VERY MUCH...
...FOR EVERYTHING TODAY.
B...
BYE.
BYE.
UM...
...

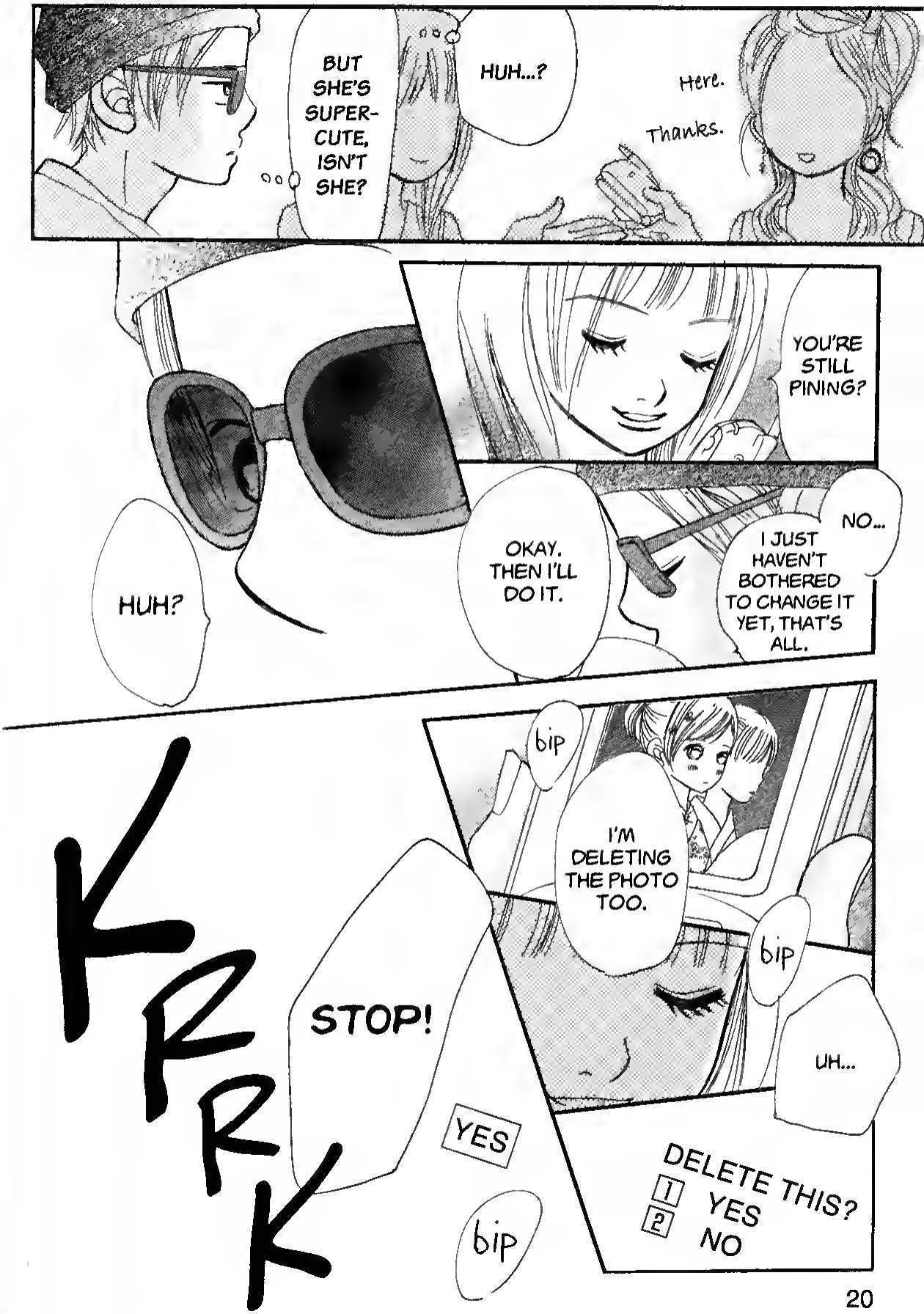
A GROUP DATE?
YEAH.
SATURDAY.
I TOLD YOU BEFORE.
OH. SORRY.
I CAN'T GO.
NO MONEY.
YEAH, RIGHT. I PROMISED THE GIRLS YOU'D COME.
YOU DID?
YOU HAD NO INTENTION OF COMING, DID YOU?
EH...
WELL, YOU KNOW...
I'M STILL IN THE MOURNING PERIOD FOR THE BREAKUP...
I DON'T THINK I SHOULD ...
...BE HOOKING UP RIGHT NOW.

...
AND SHE WAS THE ONE WHO DUMPED YOU, SO NOBODY WILL COMPLAIN IF YOU GO.
Don't stress.
THERE'S NO NEED TO HOLD BACK.
It doesn't suit you
pat pat pat
PBFF
...
Wear glasses or something.
CAN YOU HIDE THAT PATHETIC LOOK ON YOUR FACE?
UH.
HUH?
klink
mrmr
mrmr
...
YEAH.
EH?
YOU DON'T HAVE A GIRL-FRIEND?
REALLY?
SERIOUSLY?

Eh?
Really?
YOU JUST BROKE UP?
TWO WEEKS?
...SO YOU SHOULD LEAVE HIM ALONE.
HE JUST GOT DUMPED ...
UM.
OH?
YOU GOT DUMPED?
...
HEY ...
HOW LONG?
I TOLD HIM TO HIDE HIS FACE, NOT BECOME THE CENTER OF ATTENTION.
...
HOW LONG HAS IT BEEN?
WHY DID SHE DUMP YOU?
Aw, he's depressed...
HA HA HA
Sorry...
He's still hurting!
Ah!
...
I want to leave. Now!
...
IT DOESN'T MATTER.

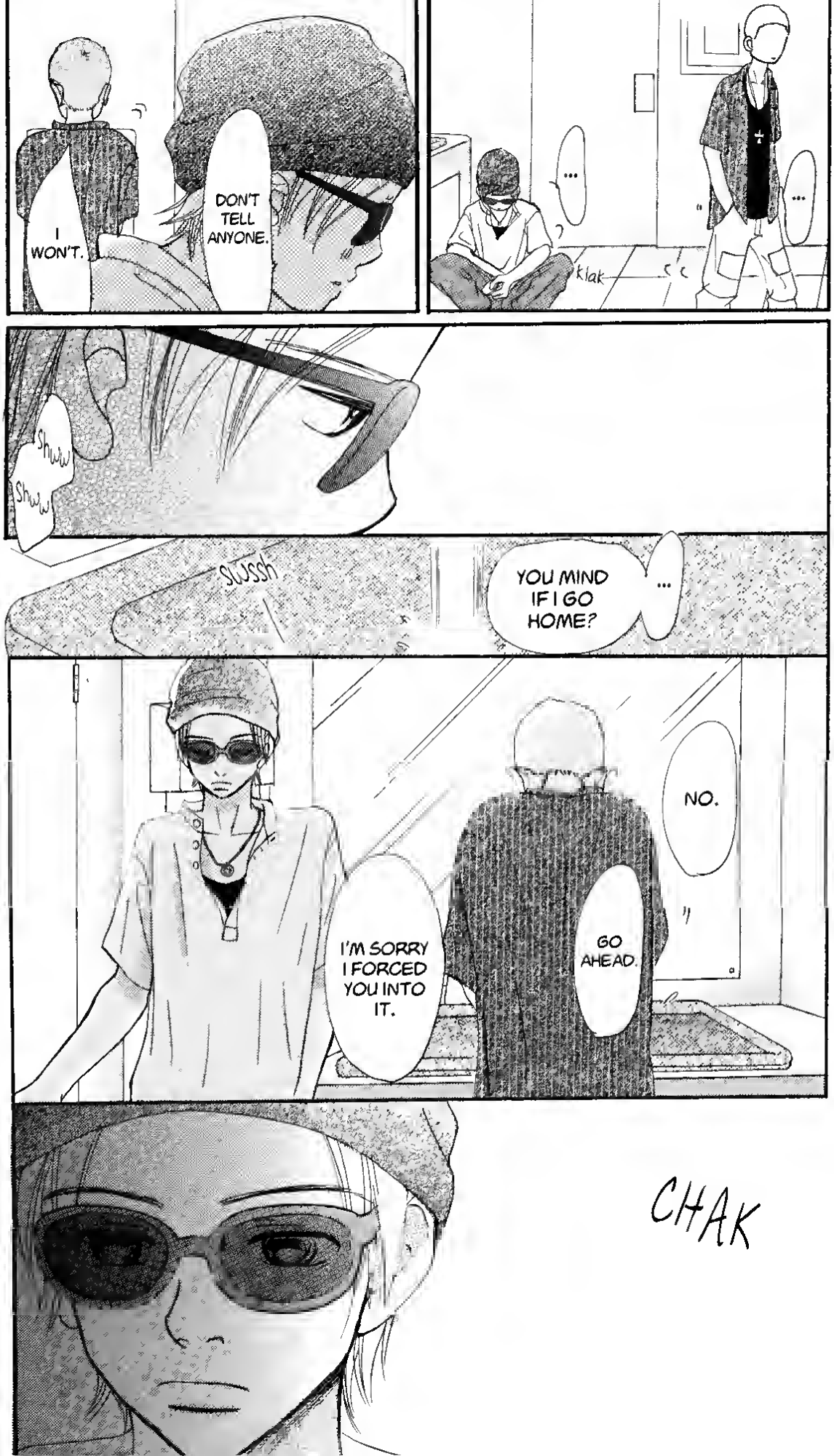
WHEN IS YOUR BIRTHDAY?
HA HA HA
No!
For real?
HA HA HA
A LEO?
JULY.
?
HUH?
YOUR BIRTH-DAY.
...IS THE SAME MODEL AS MINE.
A HORO-SCOPE FREAK?
...
HEY ...
I THINK YOUR CELL PHONE...
CANCER.
I GUESS YOU'RE MORE SENSI-TIVE THAN YOU LOOK.
HMM.
SEE?
JUST A DIFFER-ENT COLOR !!
Eh, what?
What?
SHOW ME.
COME ON.

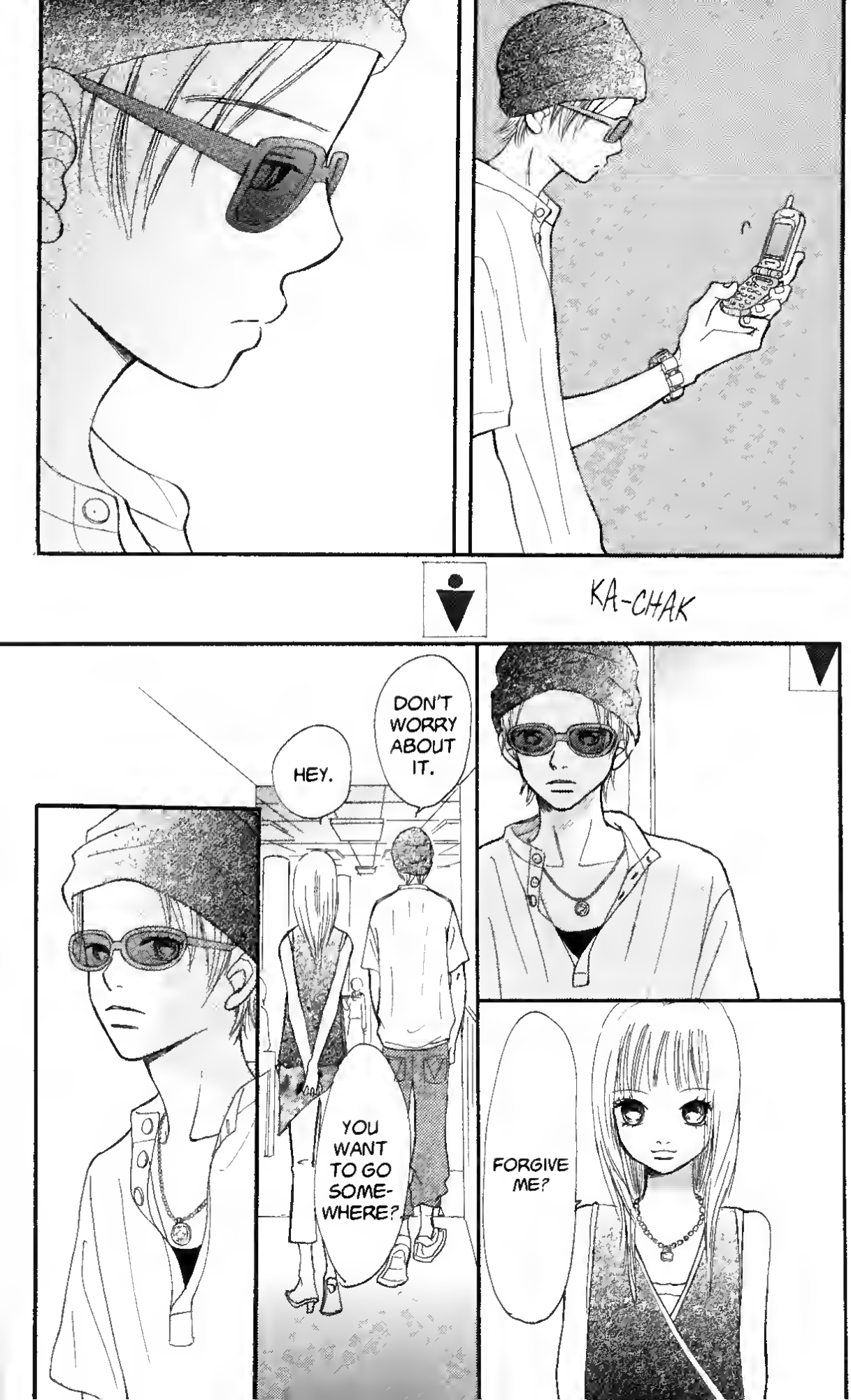
HEY...
OH!
IS THIS THE GIRL-FRIEND?
OH.
GURF
WHO'S...
...THIS?
HUH?
WHAT?
THE WALLPAPER IS STILL SET TO THE GIRLFRIEND WHO DUMPED HIM!
Shocker.
LET ME SEE TOO!
YEAH!
YOU'RE RIGHT!
HA HA HA
...
I WAS EXPECTING A MUCH CUTER GIRL.
YEAH.
Because she dumped him.
OH.
HMM.
...
WHAT?
YEAH.
I GUESS YANO-KUN DOESN'T GO FOR PRETTY ONES.
SHE'S REALLY AVERAGE, ISN'T SHE?

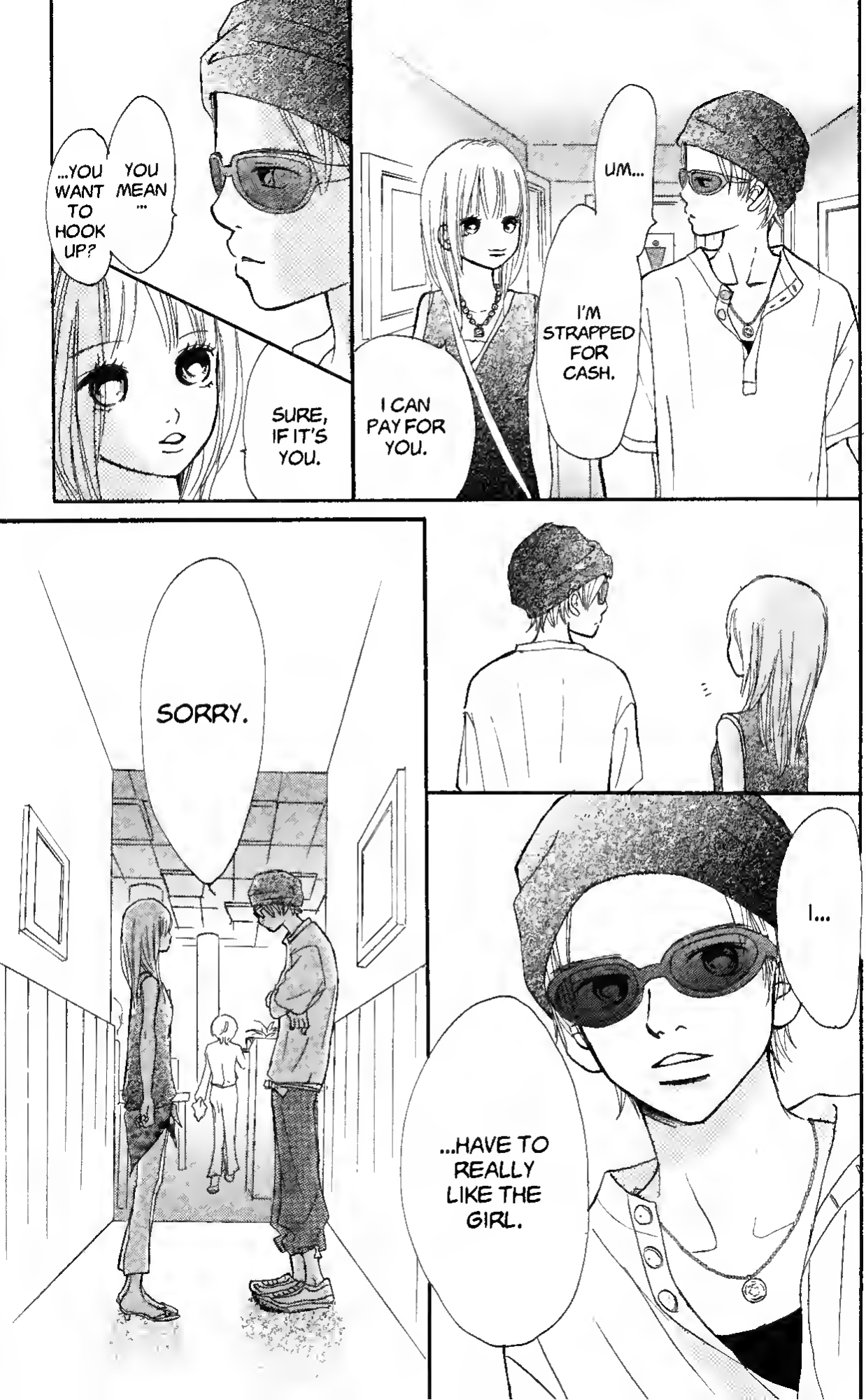

BUT SHE'S SUPER-CUTE, ISN'T SHE?
HUH...?
Here.
Thanks.
YOU'RE STILL PINING?
NO... I JUST HAVEN'T BOTHERED TO CHANGE IT YET, THAT'S ALL.
OKAY. THEN I'LL DO IT.
HUH?
bip
I'M DELETING THE PHOTO TOO.
bip
UH...
DELETE THIS?
1 YES
2 NO
KRRRK
STOP!
YES
bip

KLAFF
jolt
OOPSIE.
I DE-LETED IT.
HEE
...
BATH-ROOM.

SLAM
BAM
bip
PLEASE RECORD YOUR MESSAGE
Geh.
THMP
bip
bip
TAKEUCHI, DO YOU STILL HAVE THAT PHOTO OF TAKAHASHI WEARING HER YUKATA YOU SENT ME LAST YEAR?!
IF YOU HAVE IT, SEND IT TO ME RIGHT NOW!!


I WON'T.
DON'T TELL ANYONE.
...
klak
...
Shww
Shww
SWSSSh
YOU MIND IF I GO HOME?
...
NO.
GO AHEAD.
I'M SORRY I FORCED YOU INTO IT.
CHAK


KA-CHAK
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.
HEY.
YOU WANT TO GO SOME-WHERE?
FORGIVE ME?


...YOU WANT TO HOOK UP?
YOU MEAN ...
SURE, IF IT'S YOU.
UM...
I'M STRAPPED FOR CASH.
I CAN PAY FOR YOU.
SORRY.
I...
...HAVE TO REALLY LIKE THE GIRL.

TAKE...
HEY, WAKE UP.
shk
TAKE!!
shk
HM?
WHAT IS IT...?
UHH?
WHAT TIME IS IT?
THE PHOTO!!
YOU HAVE THAT PHOTO OF TAKAHASHI?
Uh, it's 2:30
Yano
NO...
THAT WAS AGES AGO.
YOU'RE DRUNK.
HEY, TAKE...
I WON'T GET ANGRY EVEN IF YOU SECRETLY KEPT THAT PHOTO...
...GIVE IT TO ME AGAIN.
...JUST PLEASE...

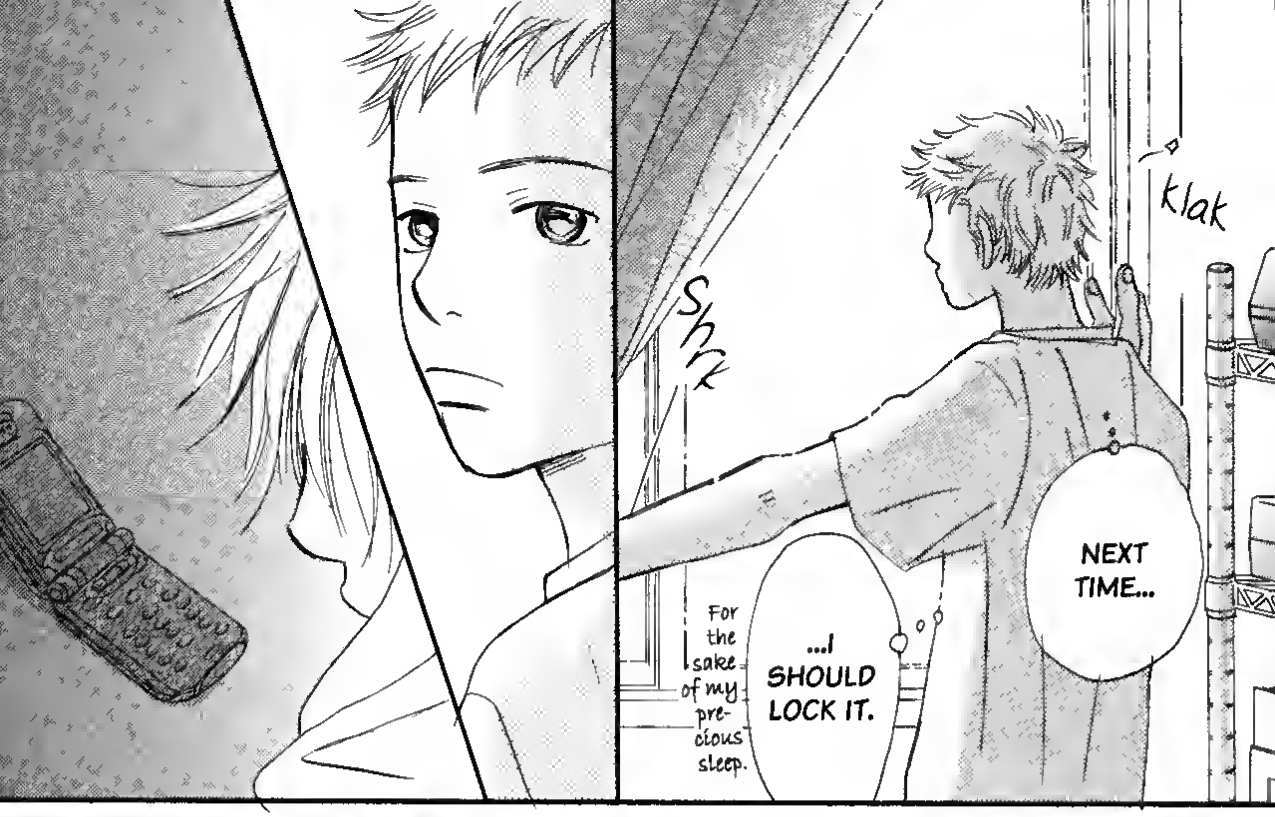
...
THE GIRLS I MET TODAY...
WHAT?
THEY SAID SHE WAS "AVERAGE."
THEY SAID TAKAHASHI WASN'T CUTE, YOU KNOW...?
Idiot.
WHAT'S THE FUN IN KEEPING A PHOTO OF SOMEBODY ELSE'S GIRLFRIEND?
I DON'T HAVE IT.
HUH?
Check it yourself
HERE.
COMPARED TO THOSE OBNOXIOUS, SKANKY BITCHES...
LET ME SLEEP...
PLEASE...
WHAT'S WRONG WITH BEING AVERAGE?
MMBL
AH.
I WAS WRONG.
A THOUSAND TIMES.
HA HA.
HA HA
HEH HEH
YOU KNOW?
...TAKAHASHI IS A HUNDRED TIMES CUTER...

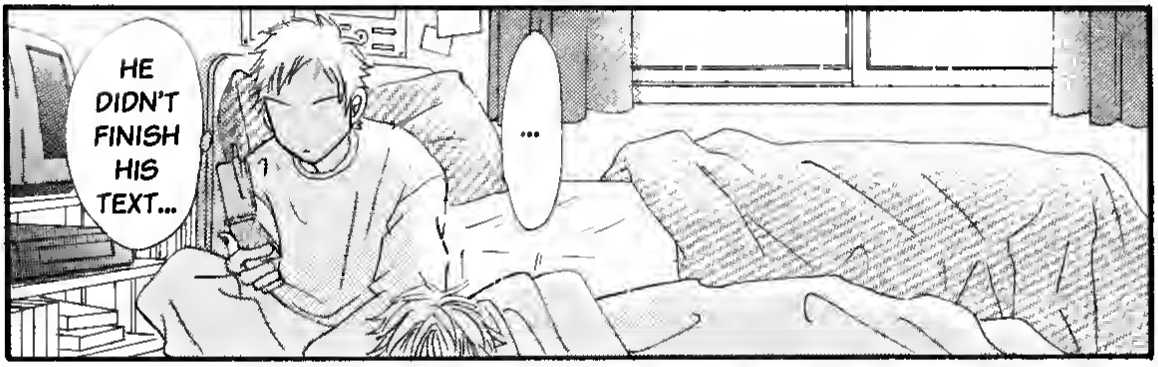
...
YOU THINK SHE'S CUTER ...
...THAN NANA-SAN?
HMPH!
WHY DOES EVERY-ONE...
...HOUND ME ABOUT...
I DON'T KNOW.
ACTU-ALLY...
...BRING THEM OVER.
HAVE THEM BOTH LINE UP IN FRONT OF ME!!
I WANT TO KNOW...
...WHO YOU'D CHOOSE.

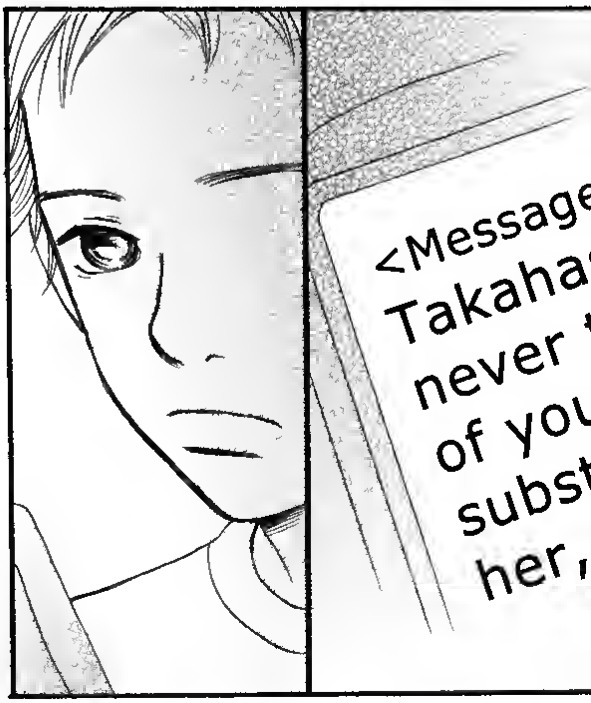
WHAT IF I STARTED GOING OUT WITH TAKAHASHI?
HEH
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? ...
I'M JUST SAYING THAT YOU CAN'T COMPLAIN IF SOME OTHER GUY TAKES HER AWAY FROM YOU WHEN YOU AREN'T DOING ANYTHING TO GET HER BACK.
IN LOVE...
...TIMING IS EVERYTHING.
MONEY !!
WHAT I BORROWED.
OH. THANKS.
WHAT WAS THE NAME OF THAT CHEEKY KID AGAIN?
MOTO ?
MOTO !
GIVE IT BACK TO HIM FOR ME.
TELL HIM I SAID THANKS.
HUH?
THIS IS TOO MUCH.
EH?
IT WAS 220 YEN.
YOU PAID 80 YEN TOO MUCH.
HA HA HA
FAR TOO LATE ...
IF YOU CAN'T CONVEY YOUR FEELINGS AT THAT CRUCIAL MOMENT, EVEN FATE WILL PASS YOU BY.
AND THEN IT'S FAR TOO LATE TO REGRET IT.

WHAT'S THE KEY FOR?
LET'S SEE...
Huh.
MY BIKE.
WHETHER IT'S 80 YEN OR 8 MILLION YEN, IT'S STILL MONEY.
IT'S NOT OKAY.
I don't have change.
IT'S OKAY.
IT'S ONLY 80 YEN.
shff
EVERY YEN COUNTS.
50...
60...
I'M 20 YEN SHORT.
THEN I'LL TAKE THE CARAMEL.

UGH... WHAT'S GOING ON?
WHY CAN I SEE MY BREATH?!
What the hell?
JUMP
tweet
tweet
bhrrr
WHAT?!
IT'S MORN-ING?!
AC-HOOO
So I wasn't dreaming...
COME TO THINK OF IT...
HOW DID HE GET IN HERE?
MUD
WINDOW WIDE OPEN

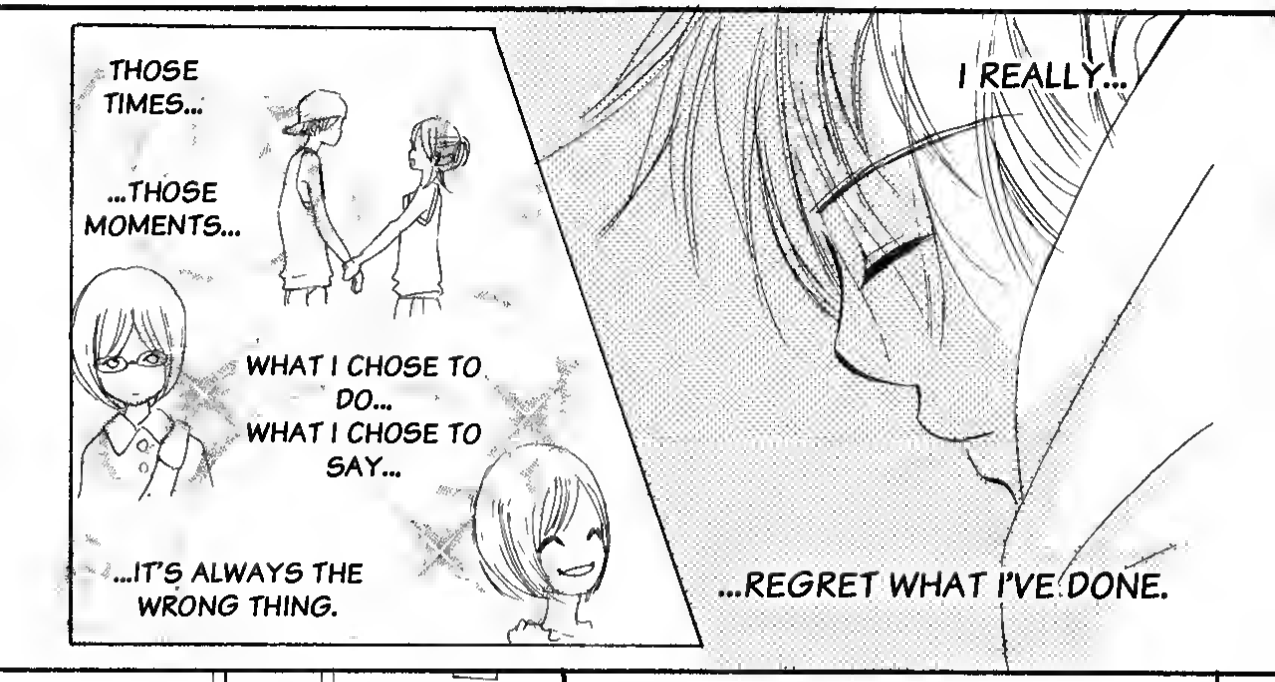


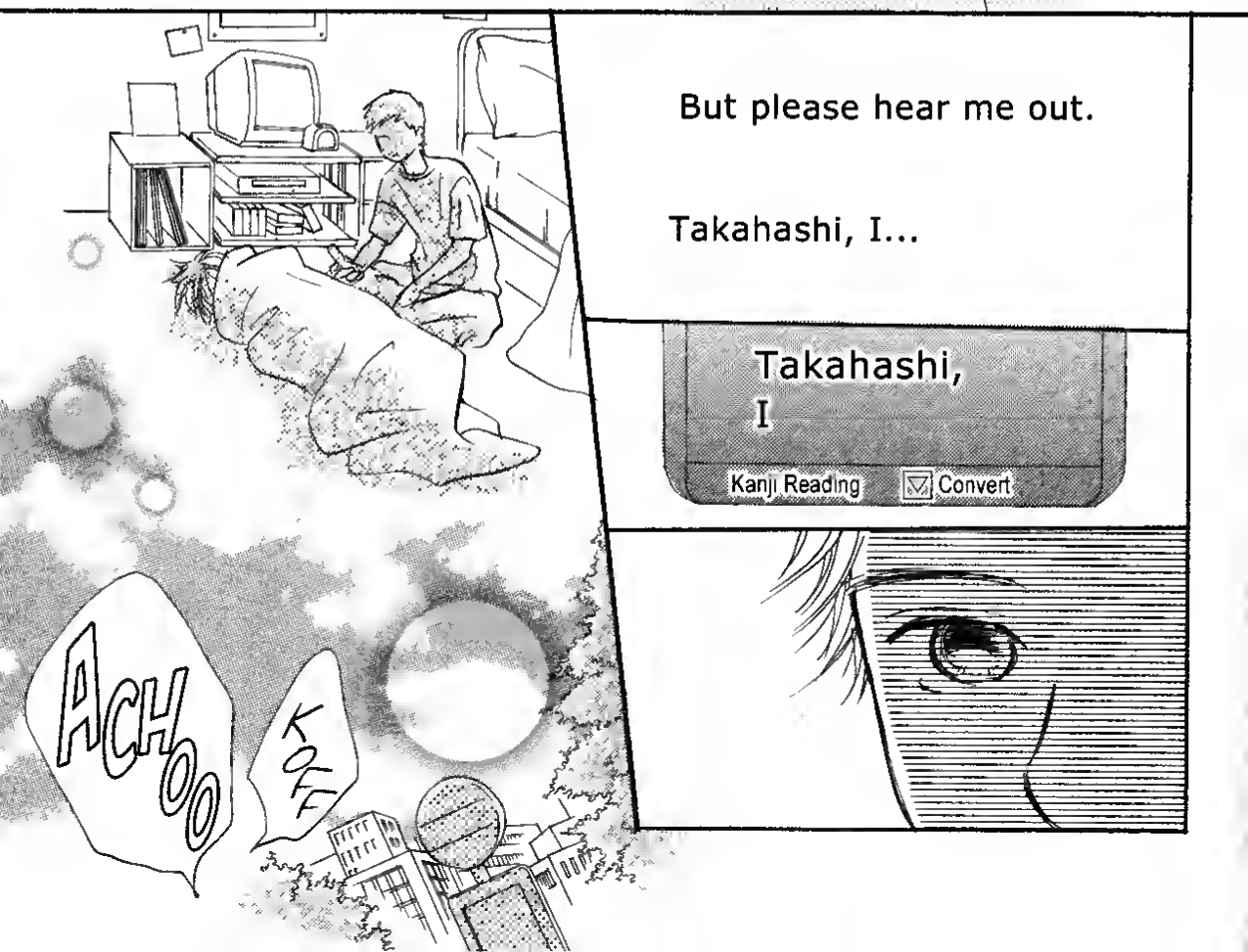




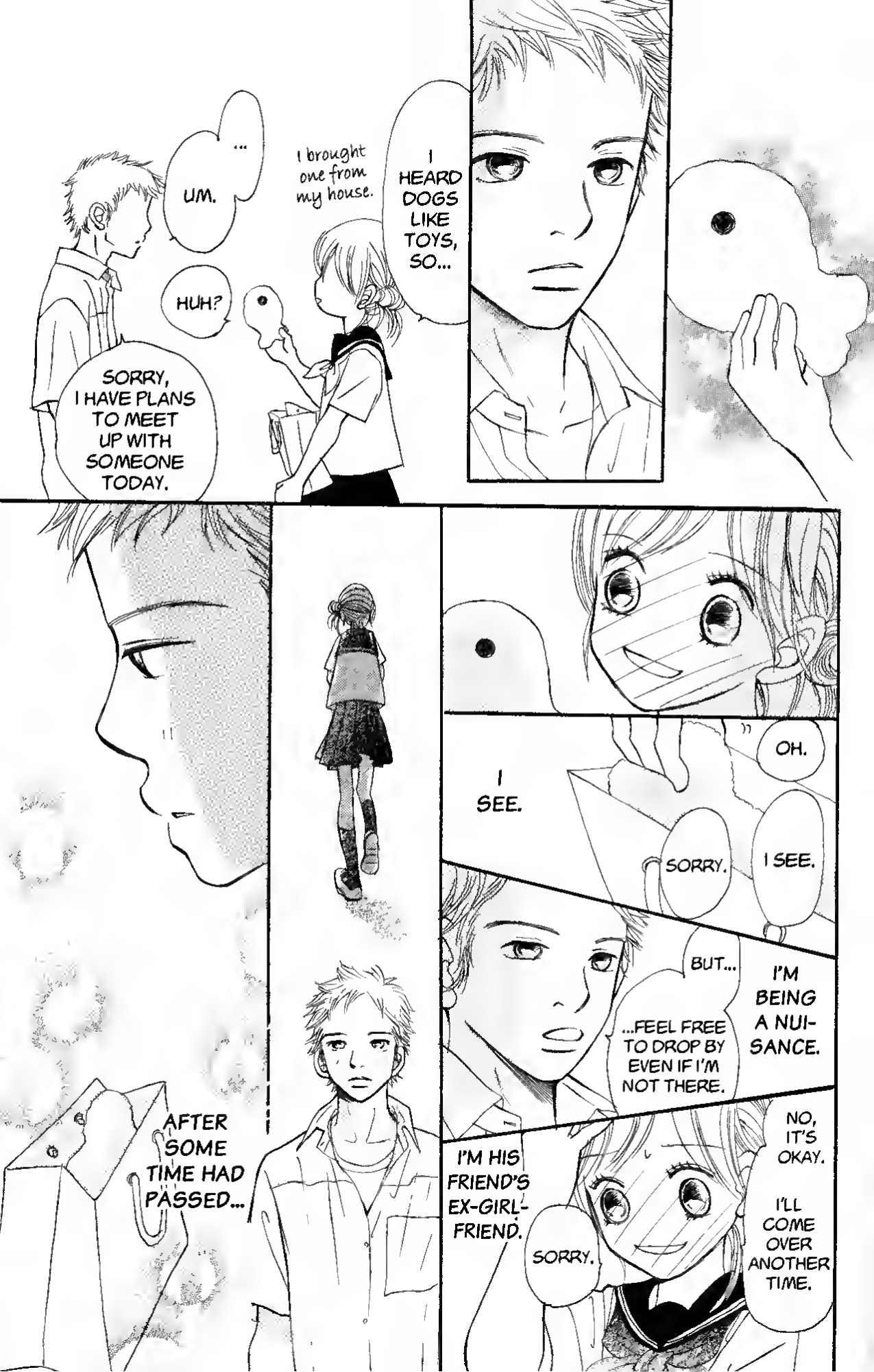
Takahashi, I've never thought of you as a substitute for her, and I've never lied to you about my feelings for you.

I'VE NEVER LIED TO YOU ABOUT MY FEELINGS FOR YOU.





...
KEEP YOUR HANDS OFF TAKAHASHI.
HNNG
I'VE CAUGHT A COLD BECAUSE YOU STOLE MY BLANKET.
SHUT UP.
UH...
IF YOU HAVE THE TIME TO WALLOW AROUND, YOU'D BETTER USE THAT TIME TO TELL HER HOW YOU FEEL, YOU KNOW?
HE REMEMBERS PRETTY WELL FOR SOMEBODY WHO WAS DRUNK.
AND I DIDN'T MEAN IT THAT WAY...
YOU NEED TO TALK TO TAKAHASHI.
IF NOT...
...IT'S GOING TO BE TOO LATE.
TAKEUCHI-KUN.
I HAVE A PRESENT.
IT'S RIGHT HERE.
shff shff
HEY.
MAY I STOP BY YOUR HOUSE TO SEE THE PUPPIES TODAY?


I HEARD DOGS LIKE TOYS, SO...
I brought one from my house.
...
UM.
HUH?
SORRY, I HAVE PLANS TO MEET UP WITH SOMEONE TODAY.
OH.
I SEE.
SORRY.
I SEE.
BUT...
I'M BEING A NUISANCE.
...FEEL FREE TO DROP BY EVEN IF I'M NOT THERE.
NO, IT'S OKAY.
I'LL COME OVER ANOTHER TIME.
SORRY.
I'M HIS FRIEND'S EX-GIRLFRIEND.
AFTER SOME TIME HAD PASSED...

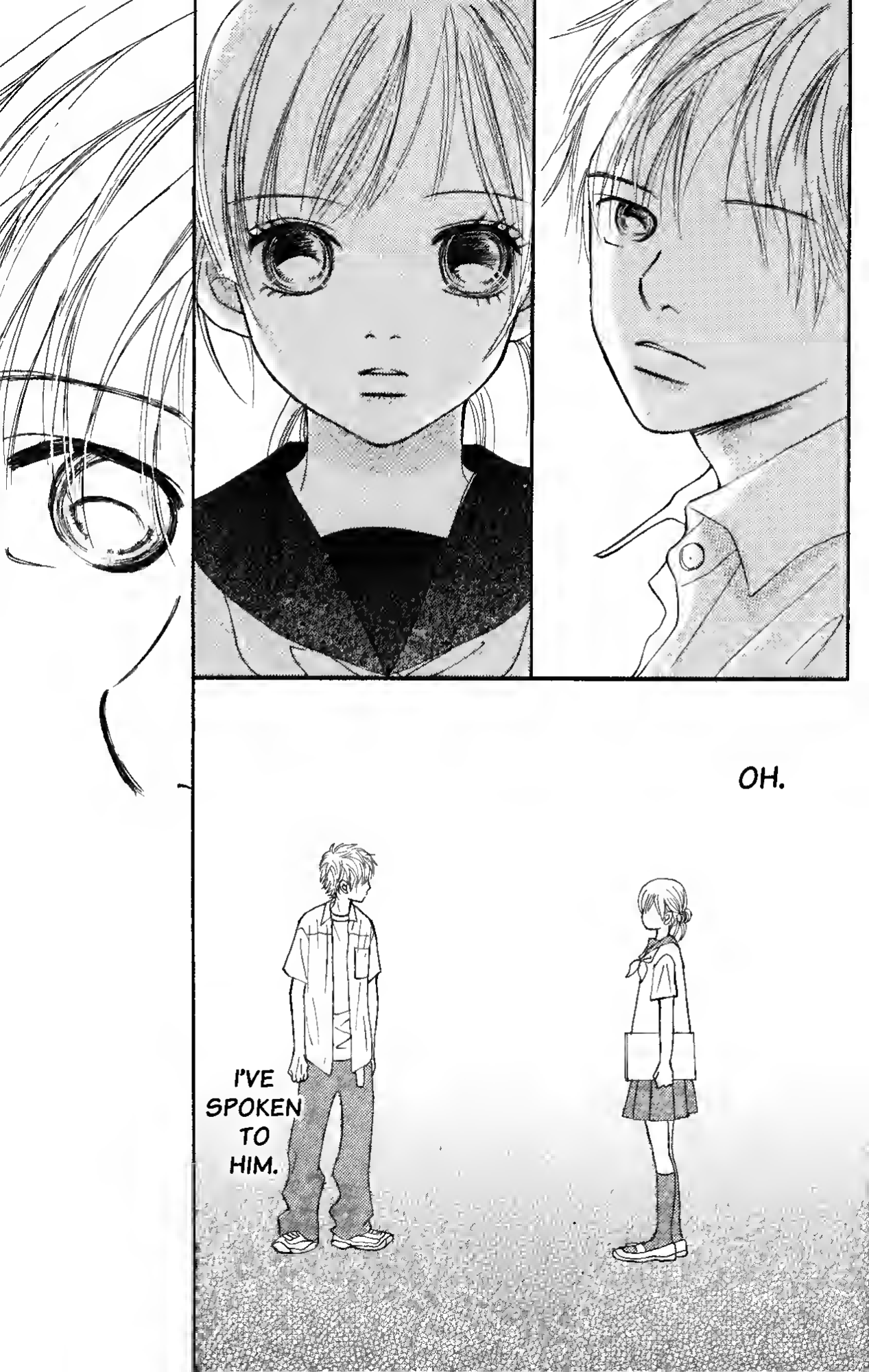
THE REM-NANTS OF HIM...
THE CUTE YANO.
THE CHEEKY YANO.
THE CHILDISH YANO.
THE MEAN YANO.
THE KIND YANO.
...I FELT LIKE THERE WAS A VOID INSIDE ME...
...AND I REMEM-BERED WHAT I HAD FORGOTTEN TO RETURN TO YANO.
THE MEMORIES OF HIM.
I SHOULD BE MORE SELF-RELIANT.
I NEED TO MOVE ON.

UM.
IT'S TIME FOR US TO START MAKING OUR CLASS LANTERN FOR THE SCHOOL FESTIVAL...
AND SINCE WE WEREN'T ABLE TO WIN A PRIZE LAST YEAR...
...I REALLY WANT OUR LANTERN TO WIN THIS YEAR.
AND, JUDGING BY ALL THE WINNING LANTERNS FROM LAST YEAR...
Second Year, Class 7
Lantern ideas:
•Elephant
•Pyramid
•Nova Ra
...NONE OF THESE IDEAS ARE GOOD ENOUGH TO WIN!!
ROUND ONES, PYRAMIDS, WHITE ONES... CAN'T YOU GUYS THINK OF SOMETHING A LITTLE MORE SOPHISTI-CATED?!
DON'T YOU WANT TO CHANGE OUR TARNISHED IMAGE, BEING KNOWN AS A CLASS OF SIMPLETONS WHO COULDN'T EVEN GET THIRD PLACE LAST YEAR?!
SO TELL ME YOUR IDEAS!
SOME-THING FANCIFUL, COLOR-FUL...
...THAT WOULD SURPRISE THE JUDGES!
OH, DON'T BE SO NAMBY-PAMBY! WE'RE GOING FOR FIRST PLACE!!
...BUT THE IM-PORTANT THING IS TO PARTICI-PATE...
EH...

THOOM
Like what?
Colorful?
Fanciful?
What a pain.
What the hell?
Huh...
THIS IS HARD.
WHAT?
OR A RAIN-BOW.
FANCI-FUL...
What's she talking about?
A...
COLOR-FUL...
...PEA-COCK?
MAYBE?
LIKE WHAT?
HUH?
Um. Um.
WELL...
Any-one else?
Well, um...
You're asking too much.
Ba ha ha!
Rain-bow?!
Yeah!
You don't have a clue either
SOME-BODY IS RAISING THEIR HAND!
AH...
YES?

DISNEY-LAND.
mrmr
6-bmp
OH...
YA...
Him?
That's rare.
GO AHEAD.
YANO-KUN.
Fanciful too...
It'd look nice.
That sounds good.
Ah!
WE MAKE A CASTLE ...
...AND PLACE DISNEY CHARAC-TERS AROUND IT...
...AND USE LOTS OF LIGHTS ON IT.
WHAT DO YOU THINK?
IT WOULD BE EVEN BETTER IF WE TOOK A TRIP TO TOKYO DISNEYLAND.
UH...
...
THAT'S A NICE...

IT COULDN'T BE THAT...
...IDEA.
...
COULD IT?
• Pyramid
• Nova Rabbit
Disneyland
Decided!
Klap
Klap
...YANO.
YA...
...
UM.
DISNEY-LAND WAS A GREAT IDEA.
IT REALLY SAVED ME.
THANKS.


OH.
I'VE SPOKEN TO HIM.

...
UM, I...
BYE.
I NEED TO GO TO THE STU-DENT COUNCIL MEET-ING.
I CAN'T.

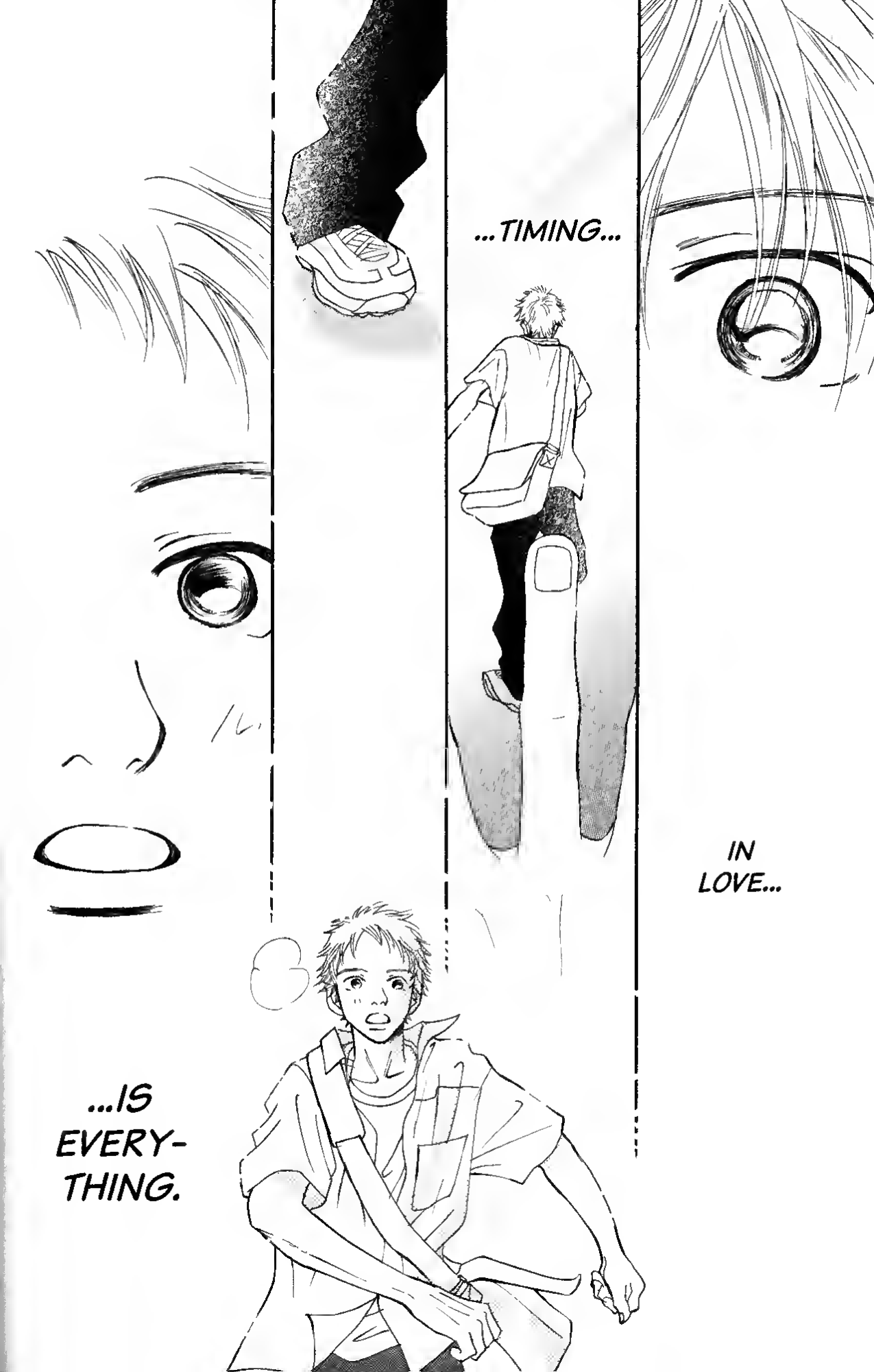
PLEASE...
...DON'T MAKE ME WAVER.
IF I LOOK YANO IN THE EYES...
...MY RESOLVE WILL CRUMBLE.

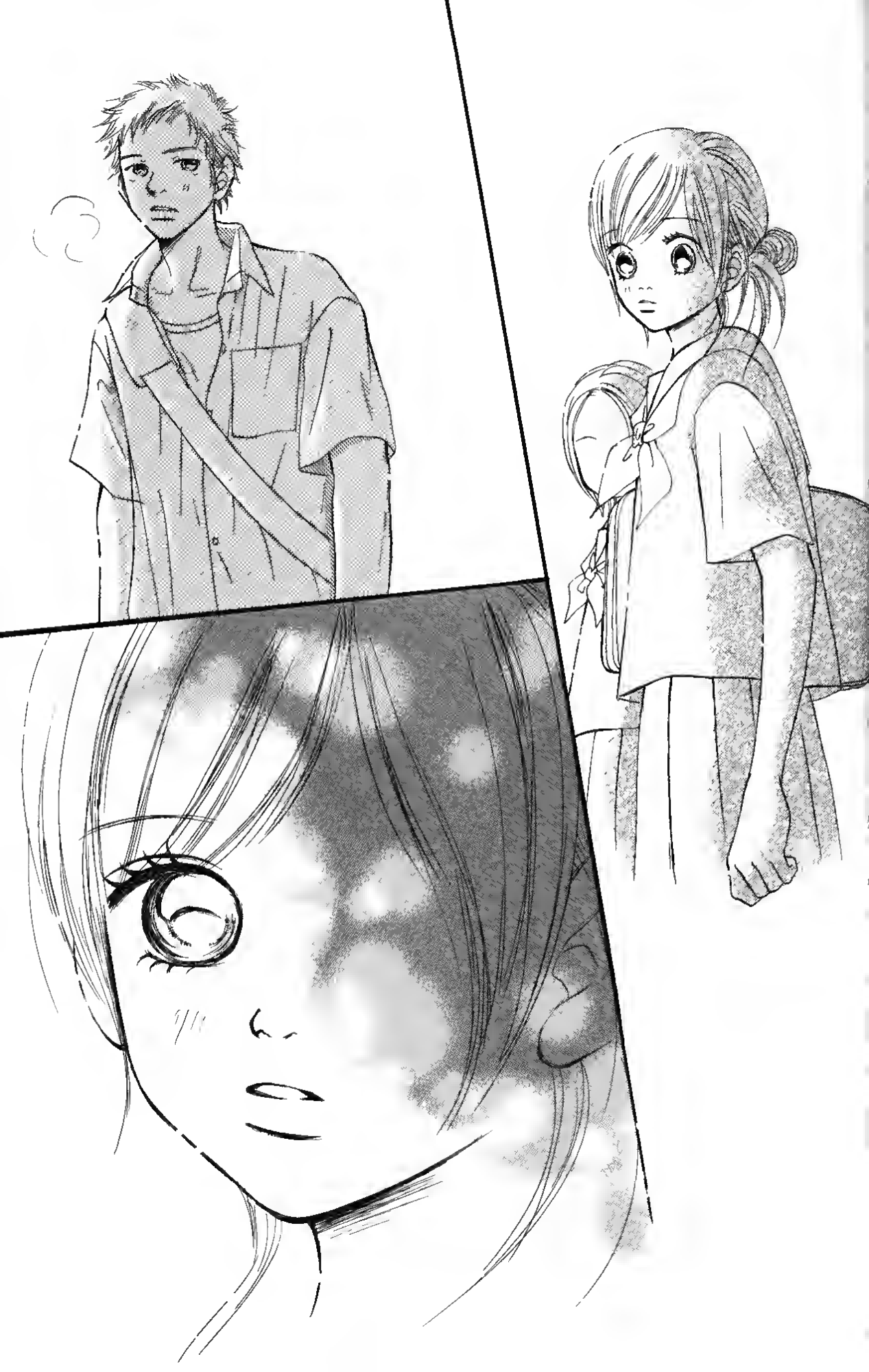
HA
HA
HA
HA
K.HIGH SCHOOL
TAKE!
WHAT'S ...
...WITH YOU?
NOTH-ING.
HEY, YOU MIND IF WE DROP BY THE PLAZA?
WHAT ARE YOU BUYING?
Bye...
Nana, what do you want to do?

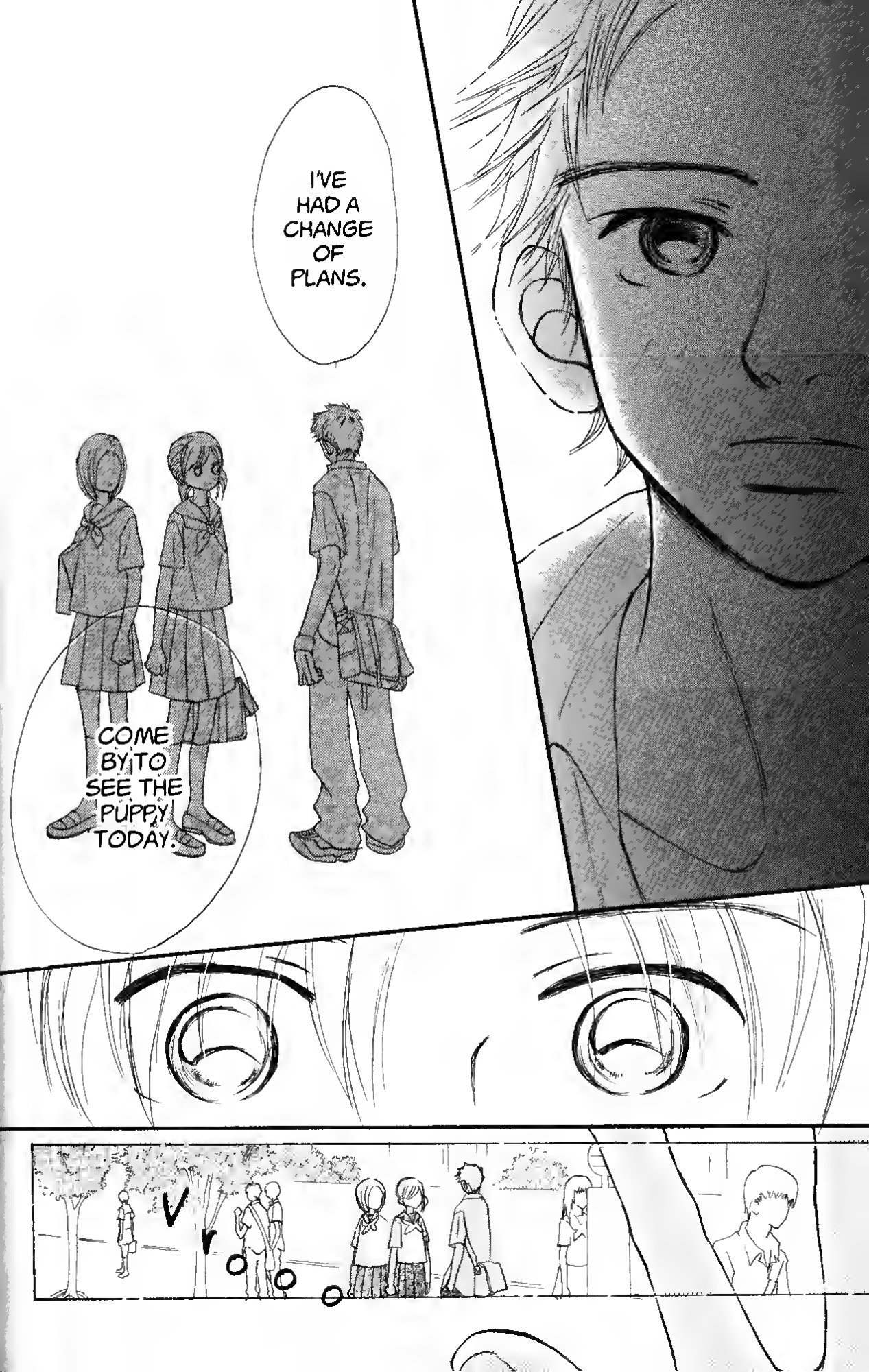
HIGH SCHOOL
Where's my bus pass...
fwssh
THERE'S THE BUS.
FOR THE PLAZA?
MOTO.
I JUST REMEMBERED I NEED TO GO DO SOMETHING.
HUH...?

WHAT I SAID THIS MORNING...
THAT WAS MY FINAL WARNING, YOU KNOW.
I TOLD YOU...
...YOU'D REGRET IT, DIDN'T I?

SORRY.
!
fwsssh
BAM


...TIMING...
IN LOVE...
...IS EVERY-THING.



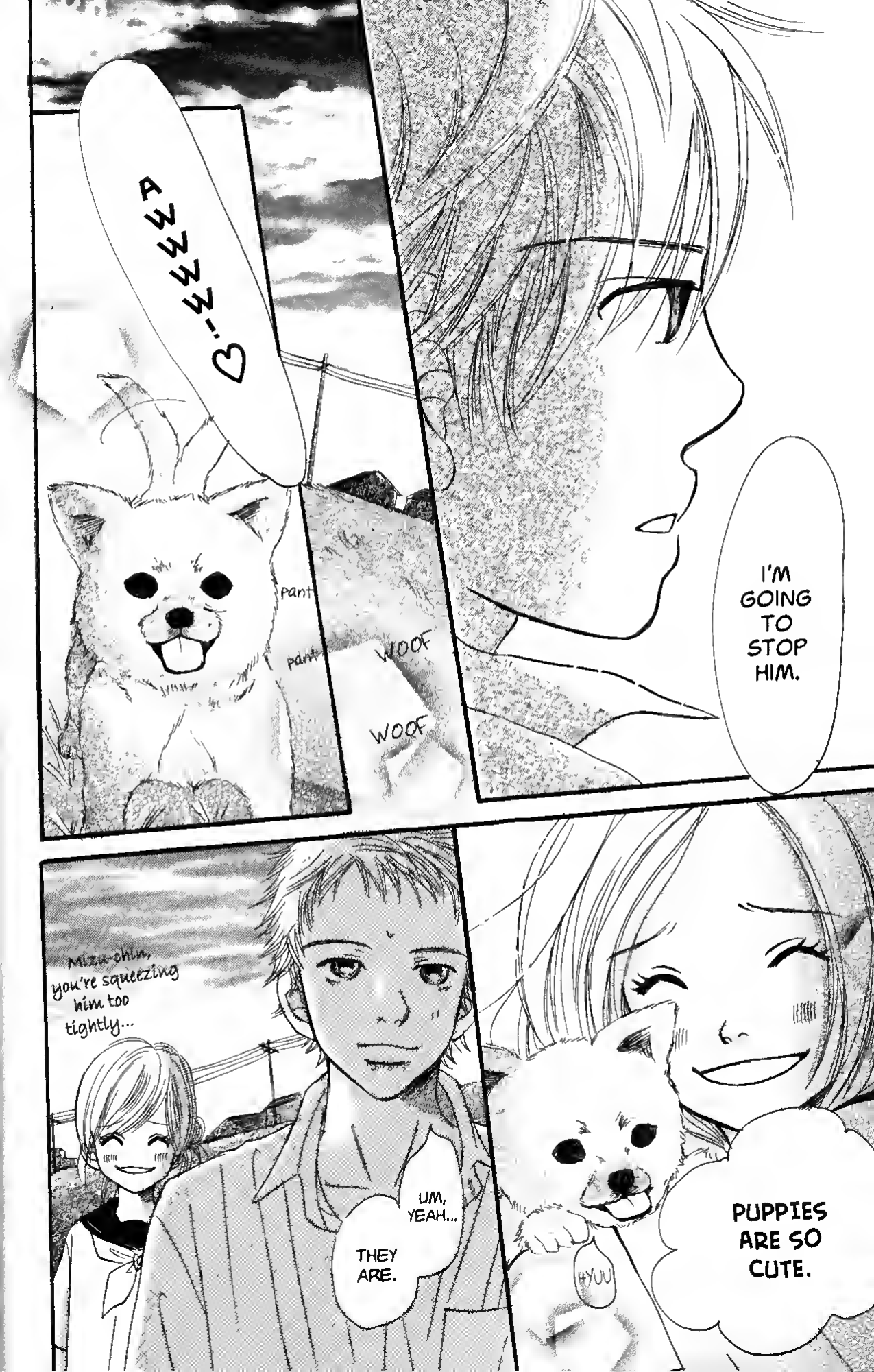

I'VE HAD A CHANGE OF PLANS.
COME BY TO SEE THE PUPPY TODAY.
Vroo

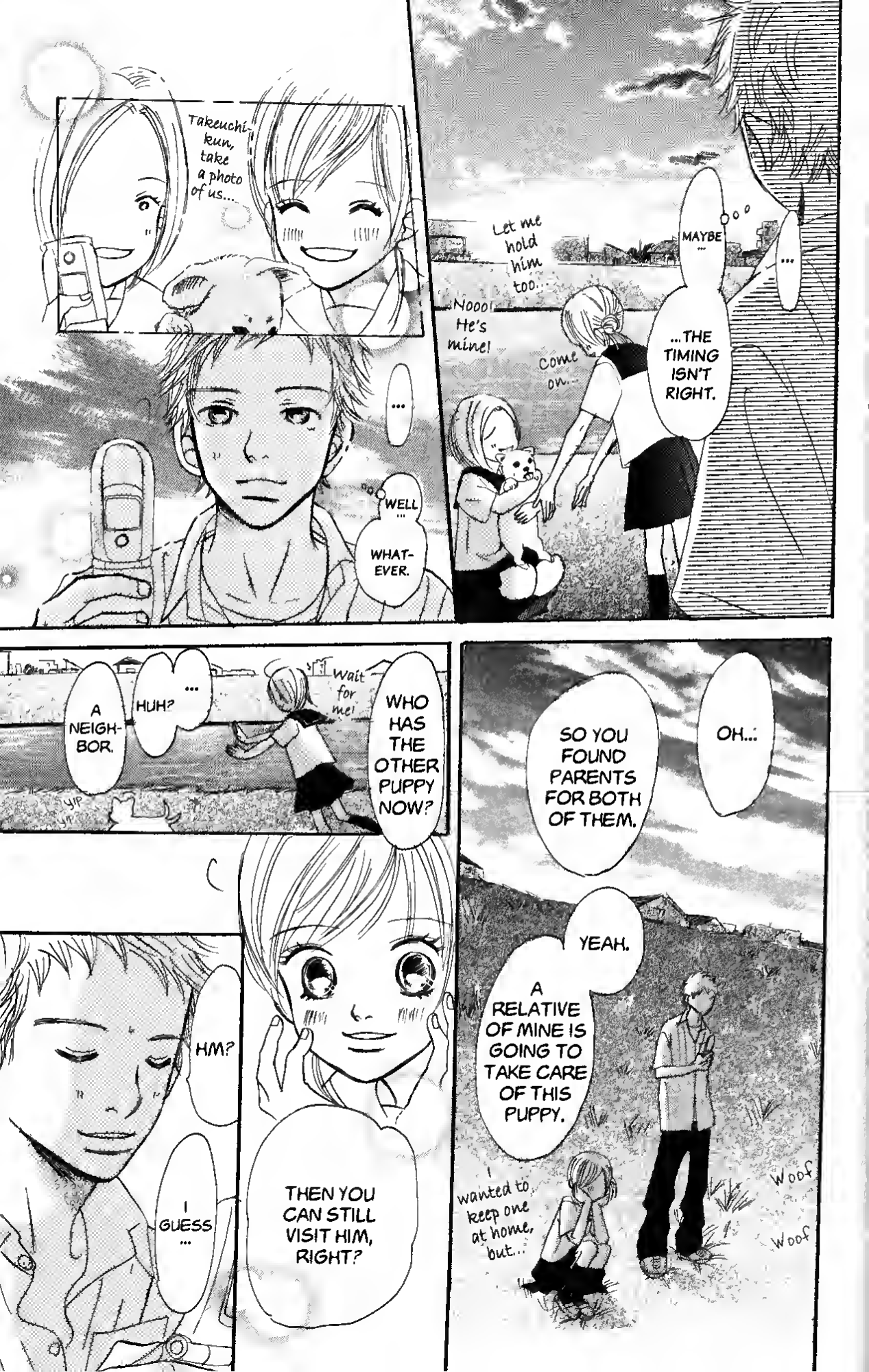
...PULL BACK NOW.
I CAN'T...

Chapter 18

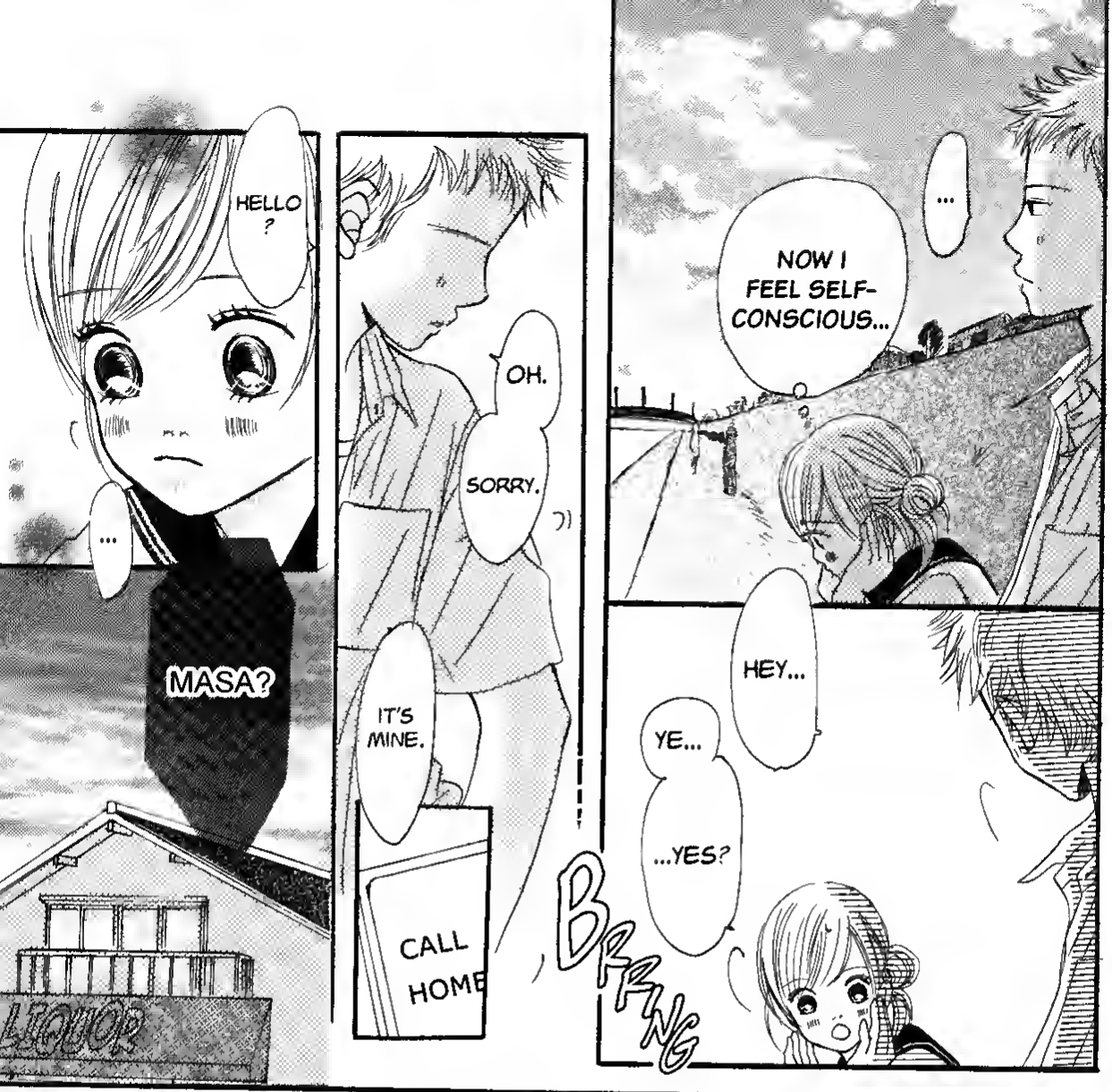
Vrooo
...
...
WH...
WHAT WAS THAT?!
WHAT THE HELL WAS THAT?!
JUMP
COINS
HEY...
...CALM DOWN.
We're on the bus.

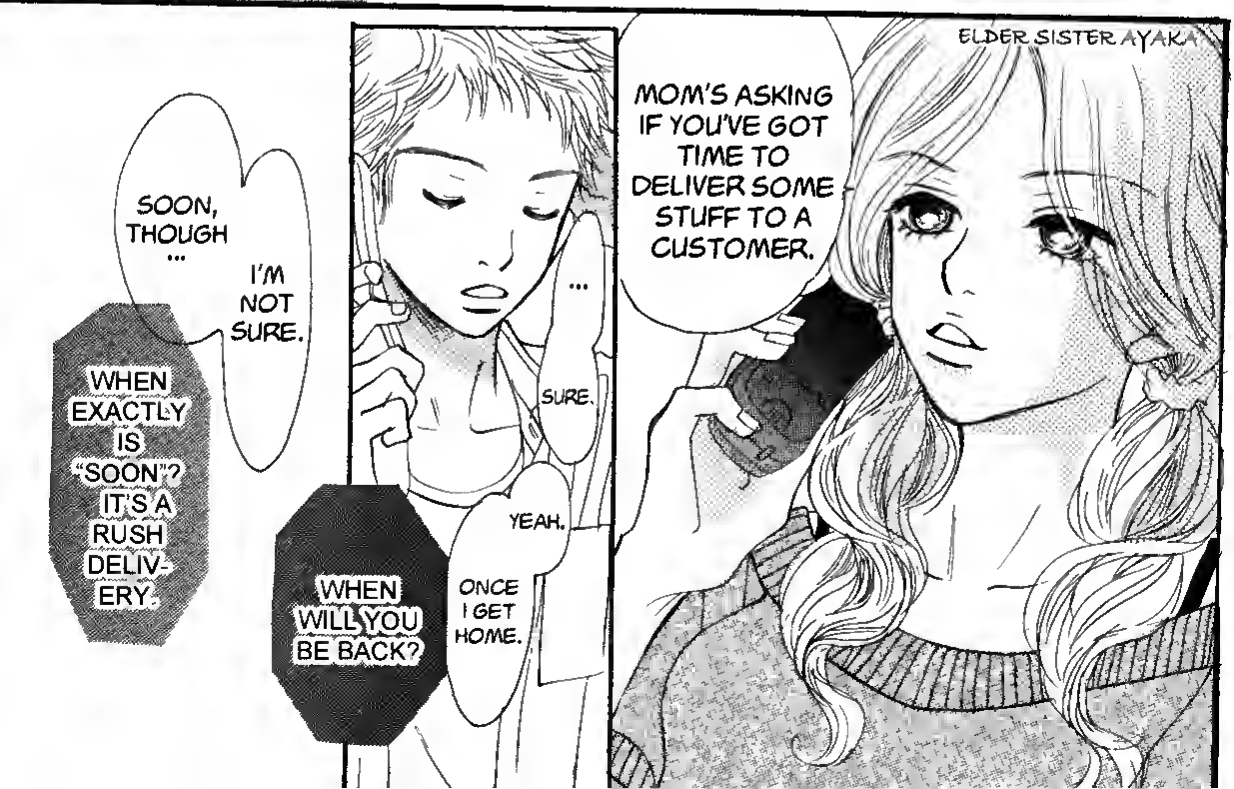
TAKE
09012345678
Calling...
bip
bip
Oof
WHAT
Fool!
WAIT UNTIL THE NEXT STOP.
I NEED OFF!
LET GO.
tussle tussle
I'M SORRY, BUT I'M UNABLE TO ANSWER YOUR CALL RIGHT NOW.
PLEASE LEAVE A MESSAGE AFTER
AN-SWER...
ANSWER THE PHONE...
cling
HEY!
YOU GETTING OFF?
USING CELL PHONES IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED ON THE BUS
S-sorry.
WHAT...
...ARE YOU GOING TO DO?
TAKE, YOU ASSHOLE! IF YOU LAY ONE FINGER ON TAKAHASHI I'LL KILL YOU!!


I'M GOING TO STOP HIM.
♡-ははは?
pant
pant
WOOF
WOOF
PUPPIES ARE SO CUTE.
HYUU
UM, YEAH...
THEY ARE.
Mizu-chin, you're squeezing him too tightly...


Takeuchi-kun, take a photo of us...
...
WELL...
WHAT-EVER.
Let me hold him too...
Nooo! He's mine!
Come on...
MAYBE...
...
...THE TIMING ISN'T RIGHT.
Wait for me!
A NEIGH-BOR.
HUH?
...
WHO HAS THE OTHER PUPPY NOW?
YIP YIP
OH...
SO YOU FOUND PARENTS FOR BOTH OF THEM.
YEAH.
A RELATIVE OF MINE IS GOING TO TAKE CARE OF THIS PUPPY.
I wanted to keep one at home, but...
Woof
Woof
HM?
I GUESS...
THEN YOU CAN STILL VISIT HIM, RIGHT?

Voice Messages
1 New
If you lay one finger on Takahashi I'll kill you!!
...
...
...
FOR A MOMENT...
...I WAS A BIT SURPRISED...
...BUT MIZU-CHIN CAME WITH US TOO...
...SO I GUESS THERE ISN'T ANY-THING...
...SPECIAL ABOUT THIS?

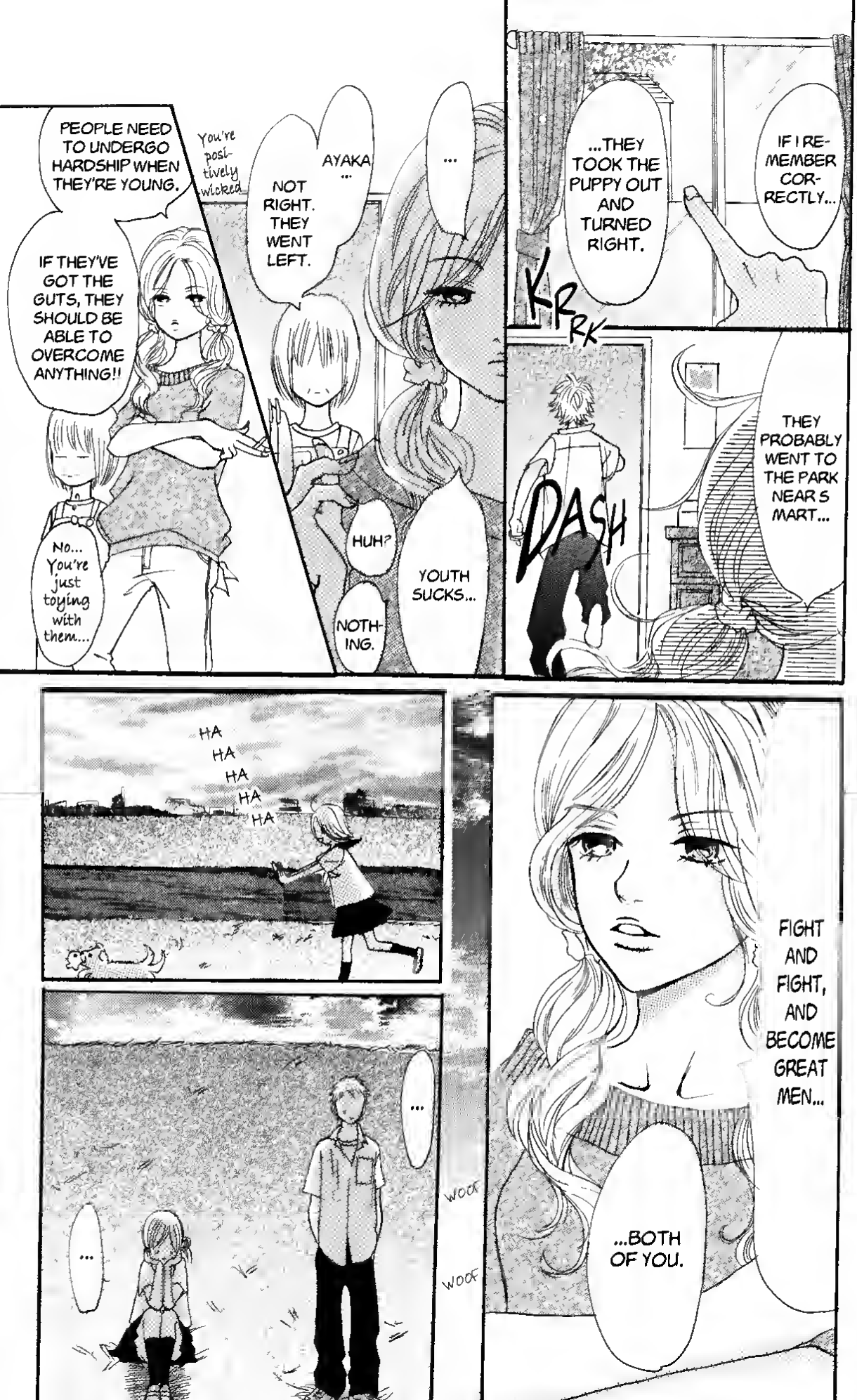

...
NOW I FEEL SELF-CONSCIOUS...
BRRING
HEY...
YE...
...YES?
OH.
SORRY.
IT'S MINE.
CALL HOME
HELLO?
...
MASA?
LIQUOR


ELDER SISTER AYAKA
MOM'S ASKING IF YOU'VE GOT TIME TO DELIVER SOME STUFF TO A CUSTOMER.
...
SURE.
YEAH.
ONCE I GET HOME.
WHEN WILL YOU BE BACK?
SOON, THOUGH ... I'M NOT SURE.
WHEN EXACTLY IS "SOON"? IT'S A RUSH DELIV-ERY.

I'LL BE HOME SOON. SOON.
HMM.
I SAID I'LL BE THERE.
SO STRICT --
BY THE WAY...
WHERE ARE YOU RIGHT NOW?
bip
HE'S PRETTY SMART...
...ISN'T HE?
...
HE HUNG UP.
OH.
...
HE'S NEVER MESSED WITH MY GIRLFRIENDS BEFORE, SO WHY NOW?
WHERE IS HE?
DAMN IT...
phoo

WHY IS HE DOING THIS TO ME?!
MAYBE HE LEARNED THE PROPER GIRLFRIEND-STEALING TACTICS FROM YOU-KNOW-WHO.
STOP IT! TAKAHASHI IS MY GIRLFRIEND!
...
EVEN THOUGH SHE DUMPED ME...
sniff
POOR THING...
YOU RAN ALL THE WAY HERE, DIDN'T YOU? YOU'RE DRENCHED IN SWEAT.
YOU NEVER THOUGHT A FRIEND WOULD BETRAY YOU, DID YOU?
ONE: CHOOSE THE RIGHT PERSON. TWO: BE HONEST.
YOUR RELATIONSHIP IS DOOMED IF YOU LACK EITHER ONE OF THOSE.
YOU WANT TO KNOW THE SECRETS TO LOVE?

WHO IS THE "RIGHT PERSON"?
ISN'T BEING IN LOVE ENOUGH?
ULTIMATELY, IT ALL DEPENDS ON WHETHER YOU'RE DESTINED TO BE WITH THAT PERSON.
Hmph.
DOUBT-FUL.
IF YOU'RE NOT DESTINED, YOU CAN CREATE YOUR OWN FATE.
HMM.
WHAT STRENGTH.
THE WHOLE CONCEPT IS STUPID ANYWAY.
GO AHEAD AND LAUGH.
WHEN YOU FALL IN LOVE...
...YOU CAN'T HELP BUT BELIEVE IT WAS MEANT TO BE.
THEN WHAT'S LACKING IS HONESTY.
LET ME TELL YOU ANOTHER SECRET.

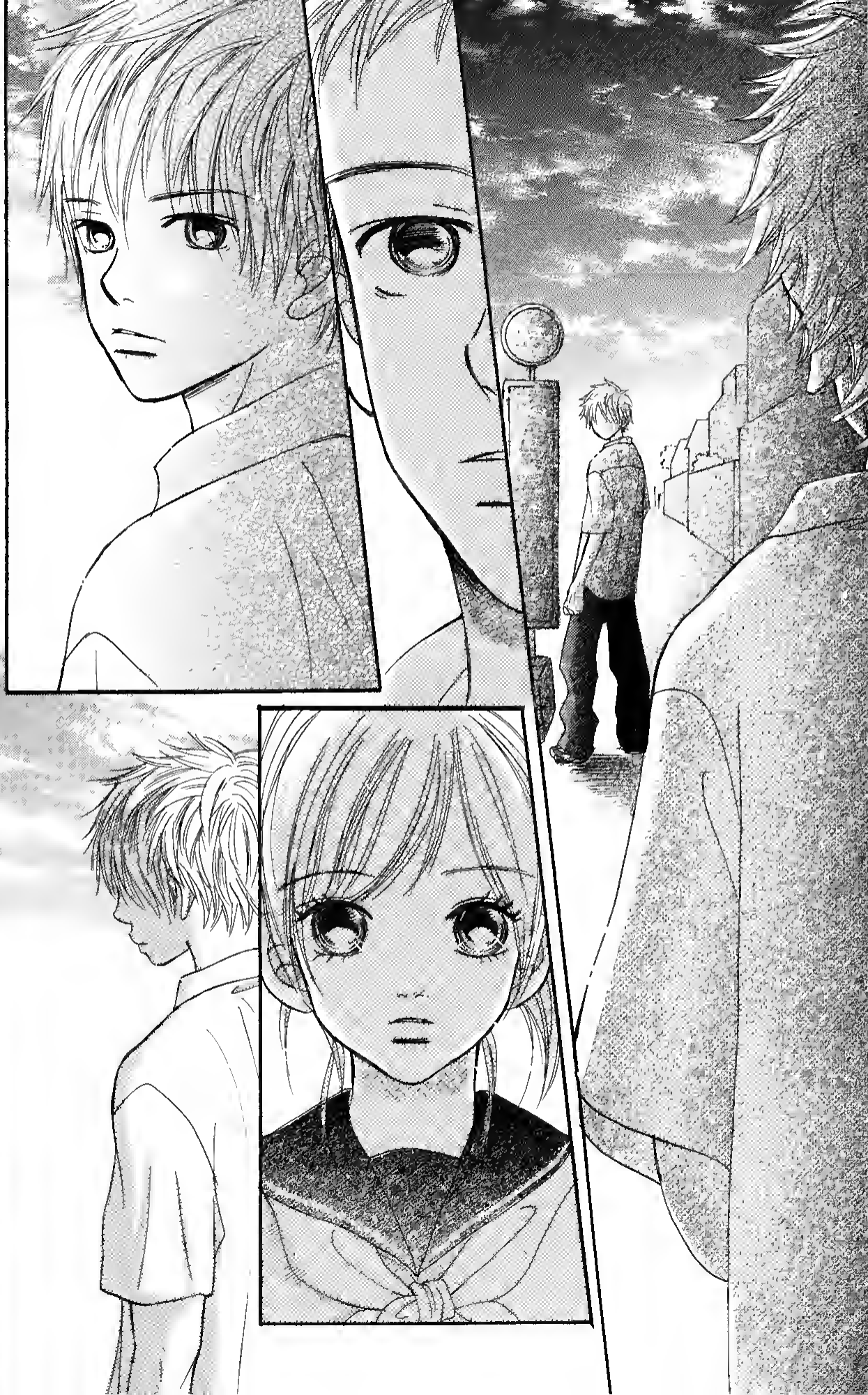

IF I RE-MEMBER COR-RECTLY...
...THEY TOOK THE PUPPY OUT AND TURNED RIGHT.
KRRK
DASH
THEY PROBABLY WENT TO THE PARK NEAR S MART...
...
YOUTH SUCKS...
HUH?
NOTH-ING.
AYAKA ...
NOT RIGHT. THEY WENT LEFT.
You're posi-tively wicked
PEOPLE NEED TO UNDERGO HARDSHIP WHEN THEY'RE YOUNG.
IF THEY'VE GOT THE GUTS, THEY SHOULD BE ABLE TO OVERCOME ANYTHING!!
No... You're just toying with them...
HA HA HA HA HA
...
...
WOOF
WOOF
FIGHT AND FIGHT, AND BECOME GREAT MEN...
...BOTH OF YOU.

HA HA HA
WOOF
WOOF
...
...
fweee
YIP
YIP
heeze
heeze
...
SO... TIRED ...
huff huff
wobble
START TALK-ING!!
SO MAKE SOME PROG-RESS!
I'M GIVING YOU TIME ALONE TOGETHER...
I...
I NEVER KNEW MIZUGUCHI LIKED DOGS SO MUCH.
I'm surprised.
I COULDN'T STOP WATCH-ING.
AH... ME TOO.
She's been playing for so long...
I COULDN'T STOP WATCHING MIZU-CHIN...
She's enter-taining, though.
...SO WE ENDED UP NOT TALKING AT ALL.
DID I DO THE WRONG THING?
Crap. I forgot I had to get back.
I HOPE HE'S NOT ANNOYED...
WHY AM I...
...WORRYING ABOUT THIS?

HA HA HA.
...
I...
...NEED...
...TO ...REST ...NOW.
shk
shk
AH!
SORRY! AM I INTER-RUPTING SOMETHING?!
NO, YOU'RE NOT!
Oopsie...
...YOU'RE NOT!
NO...

shock
...
SO...
...
THAT'S IT.
I SEE.
I SEE HOW IT IS.
blush
IT WAS ALL MY IMAGI-NATION.
I'm so stupid. And too self-con-scious...
AND ANYWAY...
...I'M HIS FRIEND'S EX-GIRL-FRIEND.
HE WAS JUST BEING KIND TO ME.
HA HA HA
THERE WAS NOTHING ELSE TO IT.
huff
huff

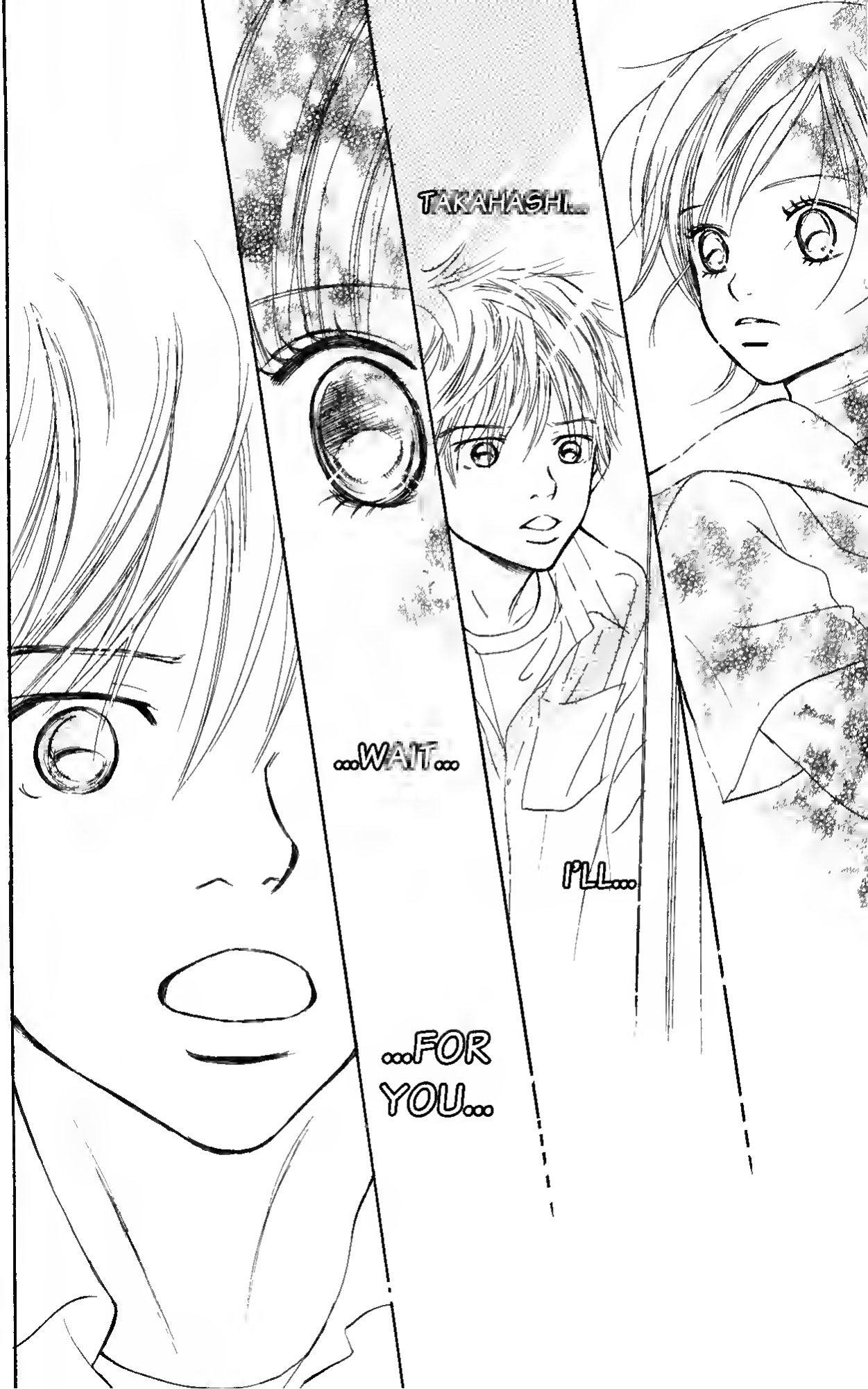
WALKING A DOG... WALKING A DOG... THEY'D BE BY THE RIVER, RIGHT?!
SHMP
SHE LIED!
THAT BITCH!
WHY...
...DIDN'T I REALIZE IT?
ISN'T THE BUS STOP THE OTHER WAY?
NO.
THIS ONE IS CLOSER.
...
WHAT THE HELL AM I... DOING?

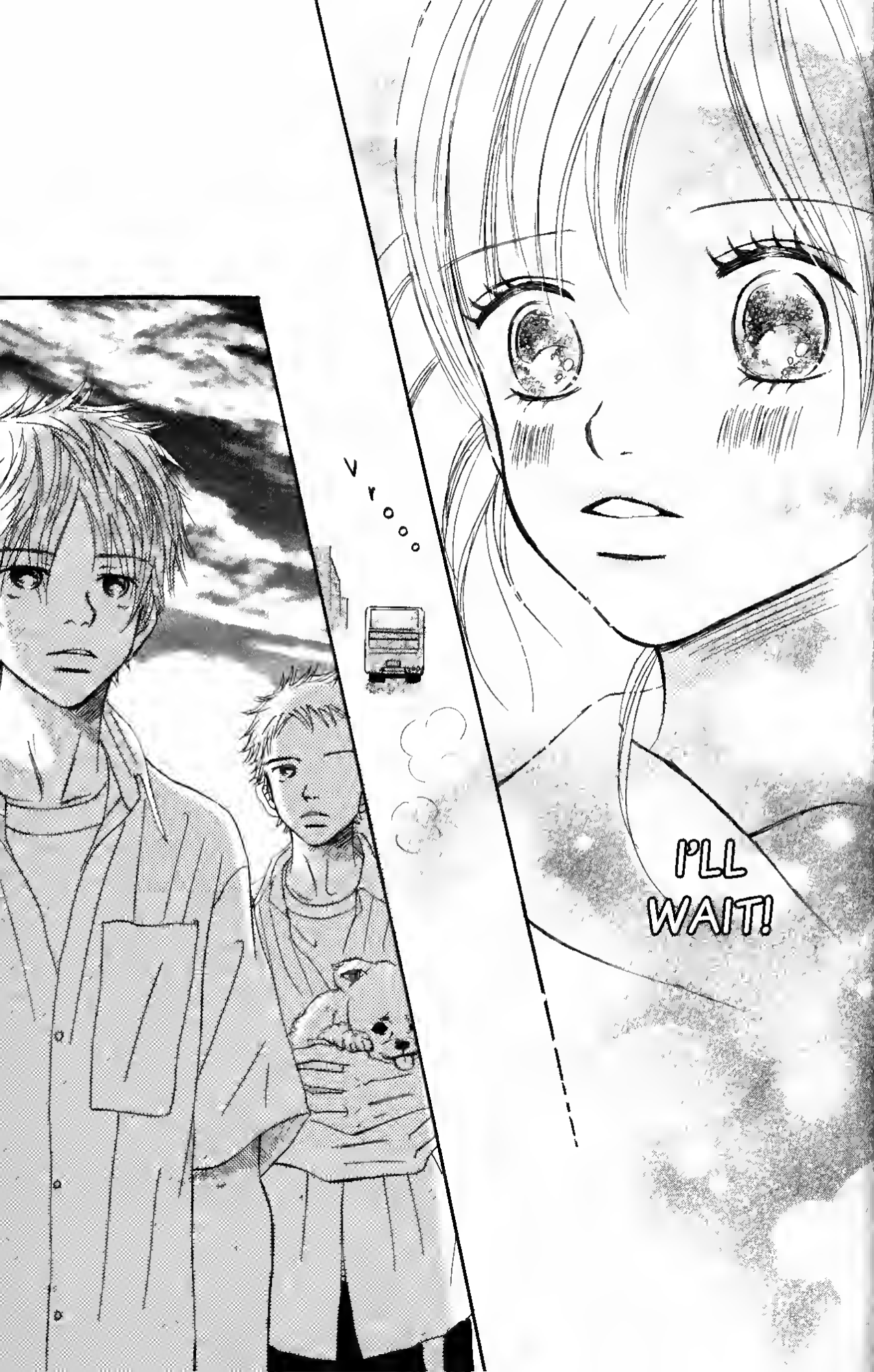


YOU MAY THINK YOU'VE BROKEN UP WITH ME...
...BUT I HAVEN'T ACCEPTED IT.
TAKA-HASHI.
OH...
...OKAY.
...THE BUS... SHOULD BE HERE SOON.
I'M NOT READY...
...TO BREAK UP.

YOU MAY THINK YOU CAN'T FILL HER PLACE...
...BUT THAT'S FOR ME TO DECIDE, NOT YOU.
IF YOU FEEL I DIDN'T GIVE ENOUGH TO THE RELA-TIONSHIP...
I'LL GIVE YOU MORE...
FROM NOW ON, I'LL GIVE YOU EVERYTHING.
THE BUS IS HERE.
VROOO
TAKAHASHI.
TH... THANKS.
GET ON.
FWSSH
ENTER

I'LL GIVE YOU EVERY-THING!
I WON'T HOLD BACK.
LISTEN TO ME.
TAKAHASHI, I'LL...
I'LL GIVE EVERY-THING I'VE GOT...
...FOR YOU.
fwsssh!


TAKAHASHI...
...WAIT...
I'LL...
...FOR YOU...


VROOO
I'LL WAIT!

...
BUS FARE, PLEASE.
OH!
YES.
klink
klink

I'LL WAIT FOR YOU.

WHY IS HE SAYING ...
...SOMETHING LIKE THAT NOW?
...
I TOLD HER I'D WAIT ...
YIP
YIP
...
DON'T TALK TO ME.
...
SHUT UP.
YIP
HEY.
YOU PLAY DIRTY.
You used the dog.
WHEN I TOLD YOU I'D KILL YOU IF YOU TOUCHED TAKAHASHI...
...I MEANT IT.
You've been warned.
YIP
YIP
WHY DON'T YOU TRY IT TOO?

BUS
AN ERA OF WAR IS STARTING...
SCARY, HUH...
...
...
WOOFIE?
I KNOW.
...
HOW DID YOU KNOW?
IT'S TAKAHASHI-LIKE.
HUH?
SHE BROUGHT THIS, DIDN'T SHE?
AH!
NO.
GIVE IT BACK.
EH.
HEY!
KLAK
MASA, WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN? YOU'RE STILL IN YOUR SCHOOL UNIFORM.
HUH? JUST OUT AND ABOUT...
THE DELIVERIES HAVE BEEN PILING UP.
27
Plastic Bo
TOUCH

DID YOU SEE MOTO?
HE WAS LOOKING FOR YOU.
YEAH.
I DID.
THAT GIRL WITH YOU TODAY WAS HIS GIRL-FRIEND, RIGHT?
AH...
...BUT SHE'S NO LONGER HIS GIRL-FRIEND.
HEH HEH.
SO THAT MEANS ...
HMM ...
UH-HUH ...
...
SHUT UP!
HA HA.
I DIDN'T THINK ...
...YOU HAD IT IN YOU.
GOOD LUCK! ♡

THIS TOY IS FOR YOU.
HERE.
WOOF
WOOF
WOOF
WOOF
MOTO-HARU ...
YOU LIKE IT?
YIP
YIP
YOU'RE HOUSE-BROKEN NOW, SO HERE'S A REWARD.
ARE YOU BACK?
THE WATER IS READY SO TAKE YOUR BATH NOW.
I'M GLAD...
...

DON'T TAKE THAT DOG IN THE BATH WITH YOU TODAY.
WHY? I DON'T MIND IT.
BUT I DO.
OH.
AND ...
...THE CAREER COUN-SELING SURVEY SHEET.
YOU HANDED IT IN WITHOUT TELLING US, DIDN'T YOU?
YOU DIDN'T GET OUR SIGNA-TURE.
BUT WHETHER I GO TO COLLEGE OR NOT IS UP TO ME, RIGHT?
NO, IT'S A FAMILY DECISION.
YOU MUST TALK TO YOUR FATHER ABOUT IT.
...
WELL, I GUESS...
...HE'S PAYING FOR IT.

I HOPE...
...YOU GET TO SEE NANA-CHAN SOON.
MRMR
MRMR
...
Really?
Really?
HA HA HA
ISN'T IT?
KRRK
HA HA HA
That's so stupid!
Uhh... It's like this.

...
DMP
ME?
BUT YOU SAID IT.
NO, I DIDN'T.
WHERE ARE YOU TWO GOING?
LET'S BAIL.
BATH-ROOM.
YEAH.
OH
UM...
YA—
IT'S PISS TIME!!
Liar.
HA HA HA
CHAK
KLAK
tmp
tmp
tmp

DID YOU WANT SOME-THING?
THEY ...
THE COMMIT-TEE...
... TURNED IT DOWN.
AH...
UM.
WELL...
UM...
THAT IDEA OF YOURS ABOUT DISNEY-LAND THE OTHER DAY...
...
EH?
I THOUGHT IT WAS A REALLY GOOD IDEA...
...BUT DISNEY IS REALLY STRICT ABOUT COPY-RIGHTS.
OH.
OKAY.

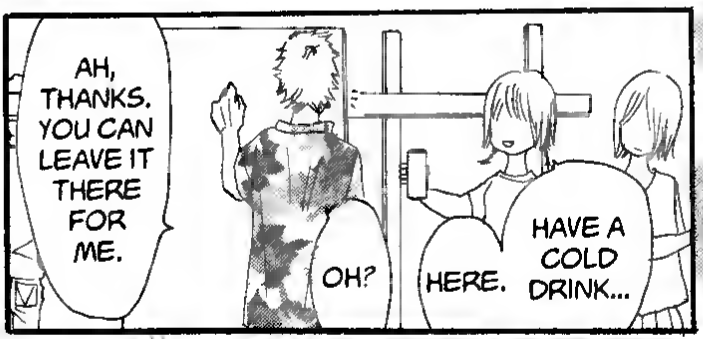
...
tmp
klak
ANY-THING ELSE?
HUH?
UH... NO.
DON'T YOU THINK?
HUH?!
NO. YOU'RE JUST JONES-ING.
YOU'RE JONESING.
HUH?
DON'T YOU THINK SHE'S SUPER-CUTE WITH HER HAIR DOWN?
WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO?
HEY...
HER HAIR WAS DOWN WHEN I UN-DRESSED HER.
SHE'S NOT DOING IT ON PURPOSE, IS SHE?
HE SAID THAT, BUT...
I'LL WAIT FOR YOU.

TAKAHASHI, IS THERE ANYTHING I CAN DO?
WE NEED HELP PAINTING.
EH?
I JUST FINISHED.
Hand me the paint
CAN I CARRY THAT FOR YOU?
OH.
SURE.
HERE, LET ME.
UM.
THANKS
HA HA HA
CRAP. I WON'T BE ABLE TO CONCENTRATE IN CLASS IF SHE KEEPS HER HAIR LIKE THAT...
HUH ?!
Class 2-7
Summer Holiday
• Lantern
• Café
July
25
26
27
28
August
1
2
3
4

HEY...!
YANO IS SO DEVOTED NOW.
He's very different from how he used to be.
...
HE'S...
...
TAKA-HASHI!
MORE WORK!
HERE.
TAKA-HASHI!
I'M DONE.
HERE...
DO THIS NEXT.
TAKA-HASHI!
I CAN DO THAT.
...
OKAY.
TAKA-HASHI—
YANO!
YOU'VE PROVED TO ME HOW PASSIONATE YOU ARE ABOUT THIS...
...SO I'VE DECIDED TO GIVE YOU A REALLY IMPORTANT NEW JOB.
NEW JOB IN CHARGE OF THE CAFÉ
...
...
Huh?
Weren't you helping out with the lanterns?

...
SIGH

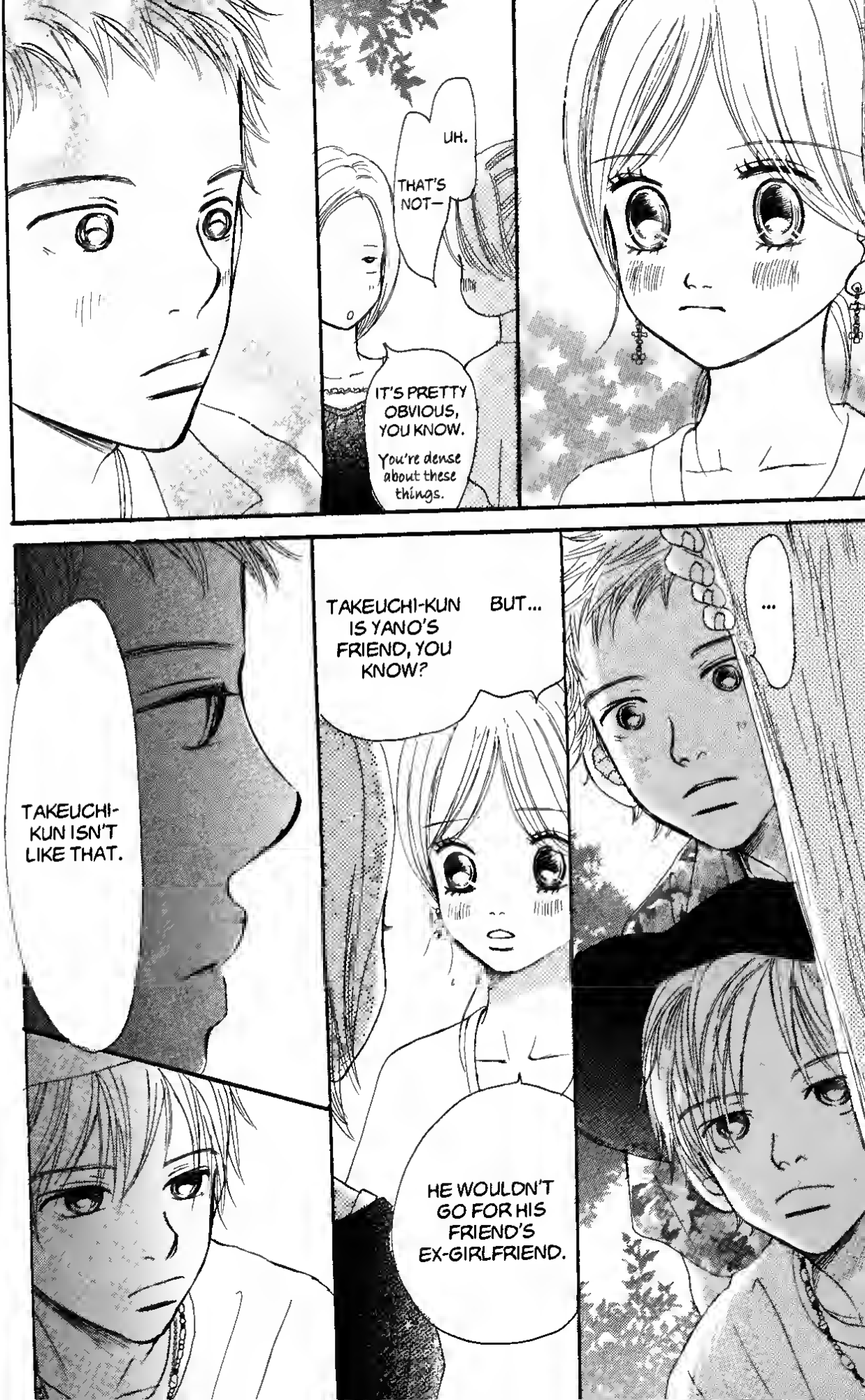
THE LANTERN GROUP WORKS OUTSIDE
BAN-ISHED?
DID I JUST GET BAN-ISHED?
HA HA HA

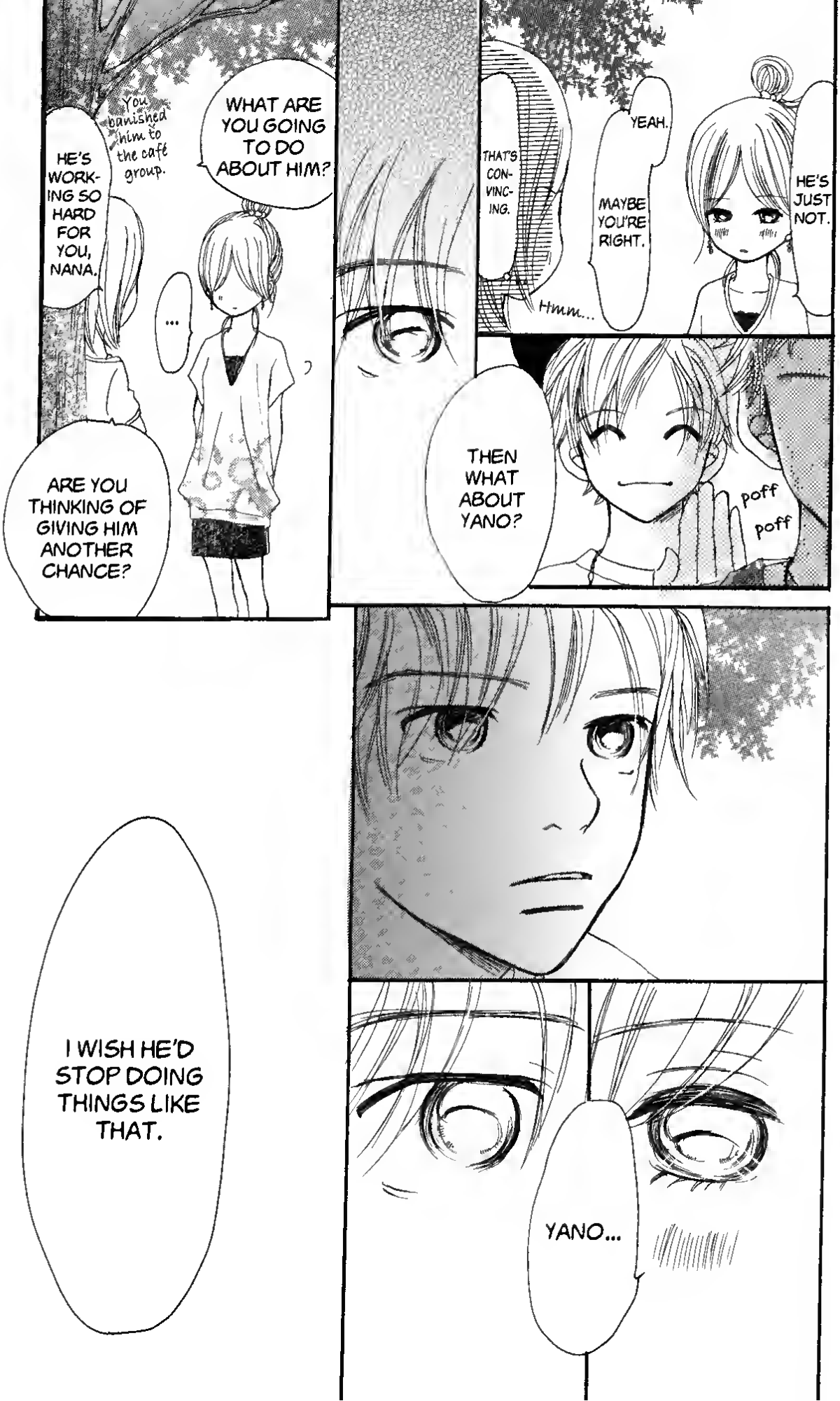

AH, THANKS. YOU CAN LEAVE IT THERE FOR ME.
OH?
HERE. HAVE A COLD DRINK...

TAKEUCHI-KUN.

I DON'T LIKE SWEET DRINKS.
GEH.
He took it!
MILK COFFEE

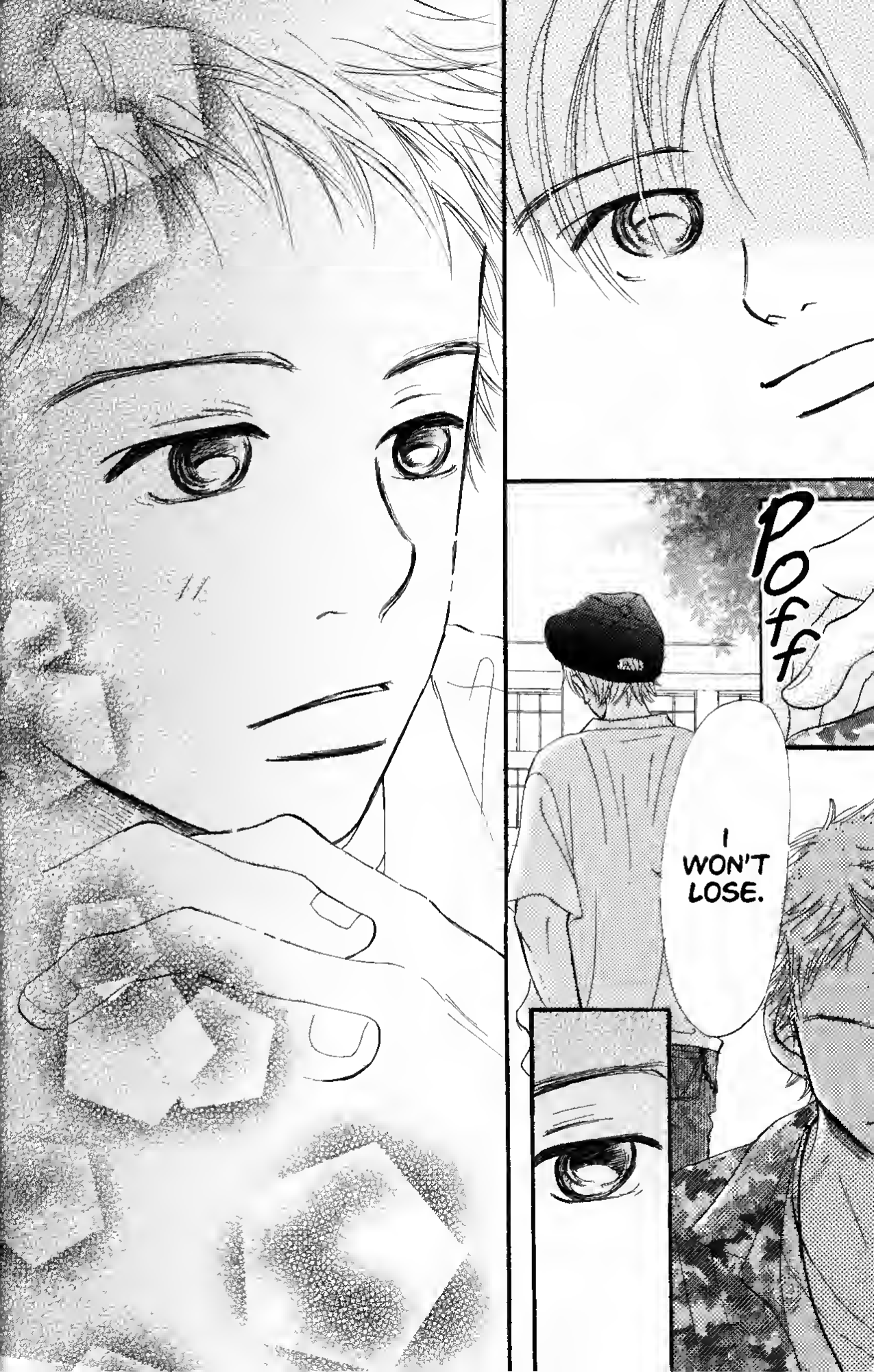
GRAB
AGH!
CAFE LATTE
...
WHERE ARE YOU GOING?!
WHAT THE...?!
LET GO!
Oh- ho! A SWEET BEVER- AGE.
YOU HATE THEM.
I'LL TAKE IT OFF YOUR HANDS.
I'M IN THE CAFÉ GROUP NOW, SO I HAVE TO WORK INSIDE. IT'S NOT A FAIR BATTLE.
YOU'RE ONLY SAYING THAT BECAUSE YOU GOT ON HER NERVES.
WHAT'S A MEMBER OF THE CAFÉ GROUP DOING OUT IN THE COURTYARD ANYWAY?
SO NO APPROACHING HER WHILE WE'RE WORKING ON THE SCHOOL FESTIVAL.
NANA, DO YOU HAVE A MINUTE?
Ack!
STEALTH MODE!
Or she'll find out I'm already slacking off.
I THINK TAKEUCHI- KUN HAS A CRUSH ON YOU.


UH.
THAT'S NOT—
IT'S PRETTY OBVIOUS, YOU KNOW.
You're dense about these things.
...
BUT...
TAKEUCHI-KUN IS YANO'S FRIEND, YOU KNOW?
HE WOULDN'T GO FOR HIS FRIEND'S EX-GIRLFRIEND.
TAKEUCHI-KUN ISN'T LIKE THAT.


You banished him to the café group.
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO ABOUT HIM?
HE'S WORKING SO HARD FOR YOU, NANA.
...
ARE YOU THINKING OF GIVING HIM ANOTHER CHANCE?
THAT'S CONVINCING.
YEAH.
MAYBE YOU'RE RIGHT.
HE'S JUST NOT.
Hmm...
THEN WHAT ABOUT YANO?
poff
poff
I WISH HE'D STOP DOING THINGS LIKE THAT.
YANO...

RIGHT NOW...
I WANT SOME TIME ALONE TO THINK.
I WISH HE'D LEAVE ME ALONE.
I DON'T KNOW HOW TO COPE WITH IT.
...
HEY.

IT'S NOTHING REALLY.
I'VE GOTTEN WISER TOO, YOU KNOW.
SO THIS IS MUCH BETTER.
THERE'S NOTHING YOU CAN DO WHEN SOMEONE DIES.
BEING REJECTED...
I'M LUCKY...
...IS NO GREAT TRAGEDY.
...RIGHT?


Poff
I WON'T LOSE.

tonk
tonk
tonk
HA
HA
HA
HEY.
YOU'VE MADE GOOD PROGRESS ON THE LANTERN.
HOW'S THE CAFÉ?
come take a look.
IT'S GOING SMOOTHLY.
I WAS WORRIED HE MIGHT SLACK OFF...
YEAH, HE PRETTY MUCH DIDN'T DO ANYTHING LAST YEAR.
I THOUGHT HE HAD BEEN DITCHING...
I SEE...
SO HE IS HERE.
HE HASN'T SHOWN HIS FACE AT ALL SINCE THEN.
AH.
UM...
IS YANO THERE?
?
SURE, WHY?
OH...
NOTHING.

Chapter 19

HA HA
peek
...
BA HA HA HA
Cut it out.

I'M GLAD...
HE LOOKS LIKE HE'S BACK TO HIS USUAL SELF...
HE LOOKS HAPPY.
WHY...
...DO I WORRY ABOUT HURTING HIS FEELINGS...
...EVEN AFTER WE'VE BROKEN UP?

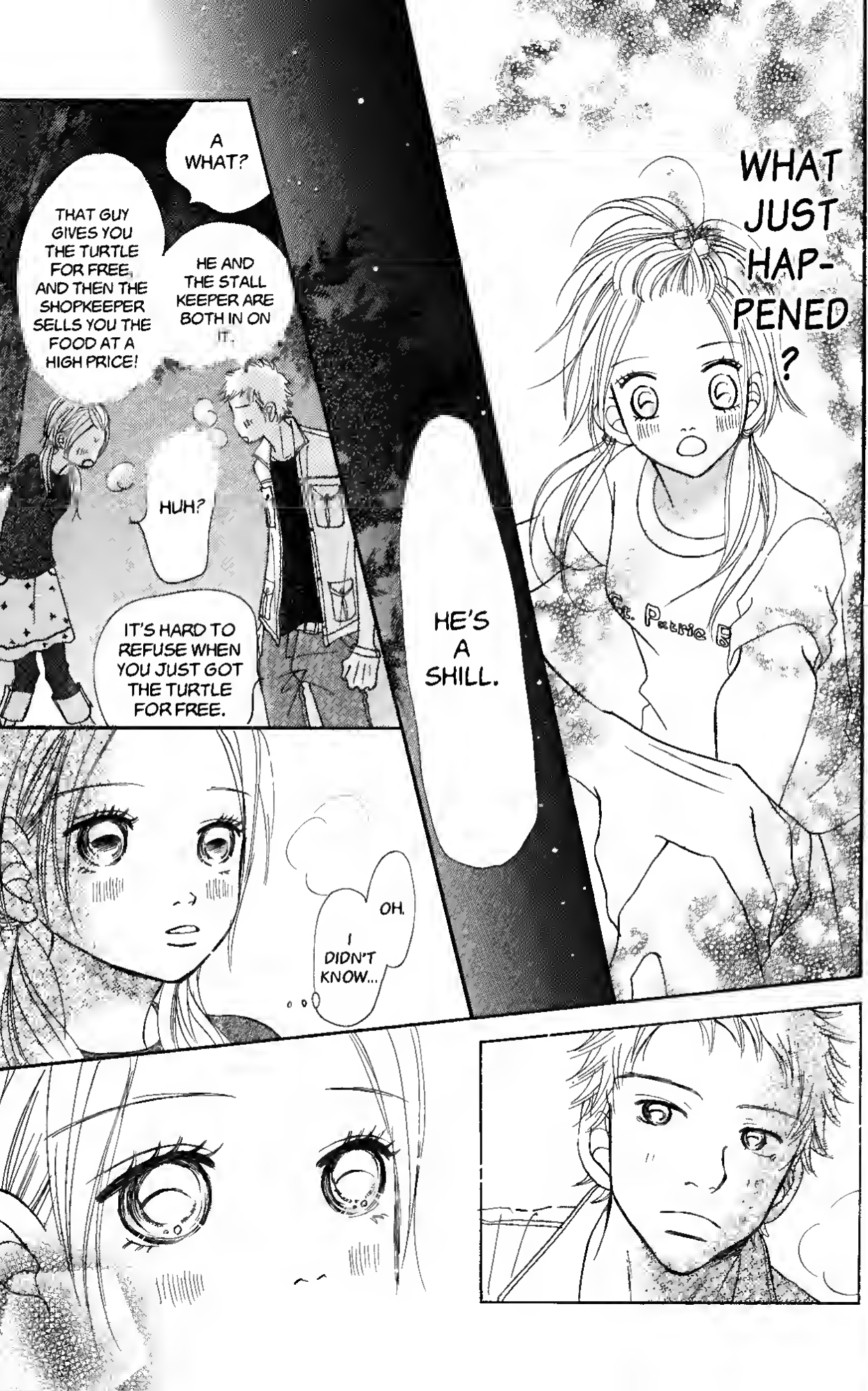
HEY! WE'RE OVER HERE!
MRMR
MRMR
NANA!
WELL, IT'S JUST US GIRLS THIS YEAR, SO...
YOU DIDN'T WEAR A YUKATA.
YOU DIDN'T EITHER.
...BUT HE NEVER ASKED.
I WOULD HAVE SAID NO IF HE HAD ASKED ME...
SERI-OUSLY?
AND...
DIDN'T HE ASK YOU OUT TODAY?
NO...
YANO.
HE DIDN'T.
HUH?
I WOULD HAVE SAID NO...
Mizu-chin, how many times do I have to tell you?
OF COURSE HE DIDN'T!
WHAT ABOUT TAKEUCHI-KUN?

We'll have fun on our own!!
...BUT I STILL FEEL SAD ABOUT IT.
WHY?
HA HA HA
YA...
YANO-SENPAI!!
UM. HEY.
COULD YOU HELP US WITH THE GOLDFISH SCOOP?
HUH?
I... I REALLY WANT A GOLD-FISH.
I HEARD YOU WERE GOOD AT IT.
IT'S A LOT CHEAPER IF YOU BUY A GOLDFISH AT A PET SHOP, YOU KNOW.
um.
Please...
ARE THEY KOHAI ?
Who are they?
THEY CALLED HIM "SENPAI."
FRESH-MEN, HUH.
I'M BETTER WITH THE WAFER SCOOPS ...
Oh well...

KYAAH!♡
HE GOT ME ONE! HE GOT ME ONE!
YANO-SAN!!
NO WAY.
For real?!
SHOW ME.
HE SAID IT'D BE MEANING-LESS IF WE PAID MORE THAN WE WOULD AT A PET STORE.
Cool!
LOOK, A POPEYED GOLDFISH!!
I GUESS YANO IS HERE TOO.
I GUESS...
That was so nice of him!
I'm so glad I was brave enough to ask him
I'm jealous.
...
OH.
HE CAME.
I'm going to take such good care of it!
HE CAME.
IF HE CAUGHT GOLD-FISH, WE'LL CATCH TUR-TLES!!
COME ON, WE NEED TO HAVE FUN TOO!
ARGH!
Poff Poff
T-TUR-TLES?

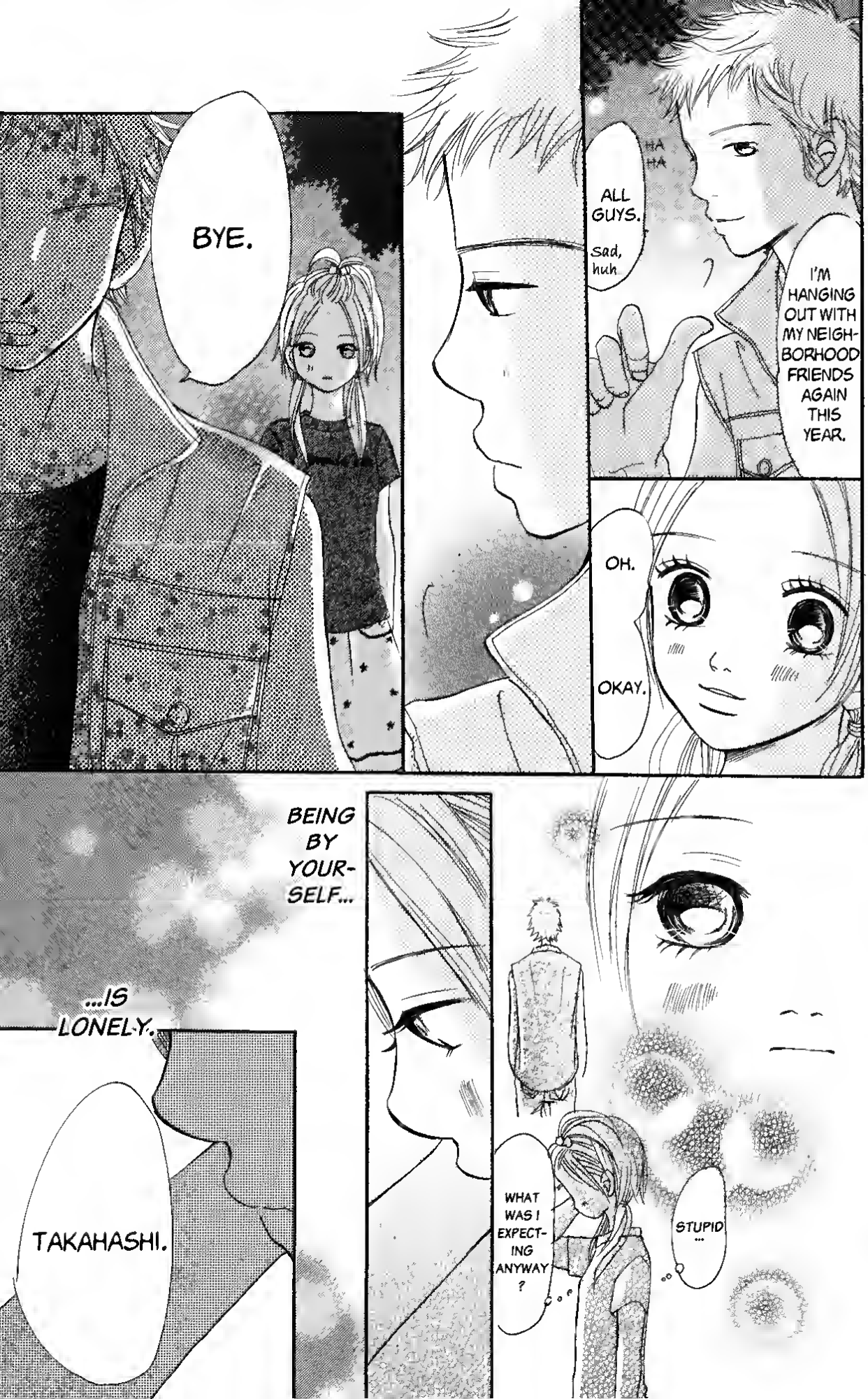
HE CAME WITH SOMEONE ELSE.
SEASONS, HUH.
DO YOU EVER YEARN...
...TO SEE THE ONE YOU LOVE ON SUMMER EVENINGS?
umphi
OR ON COLD, SNOWY WINTER DAYS, OR WHEN THE CHERRY BLOSSOMS FALL, OR ON LONG AUTUMN NIGHTS?
BEING BY YOURSELF IS LONELY!
THE WHOLE YEAR...
Geh! Is this one even alive?!
fwob
push push
Crap! I messed up.
It's hard, huh.
I'LL SHOW YOU HOW.
BEING BY YOURSELF IS LONELY.
fwup
OOH. HE'S GOOD.
HERE YOU GO.
HEY... WHAT SHOULD WE DO NEXT?
HUH?
YOU CAN HAVE THIS.
WHAT?
YOU'RE A CUTIE.
Ah, you're so lucky. Take it, Nana!
He... HUH?
I'm cute?
Go on, girl.
C... CAN I?

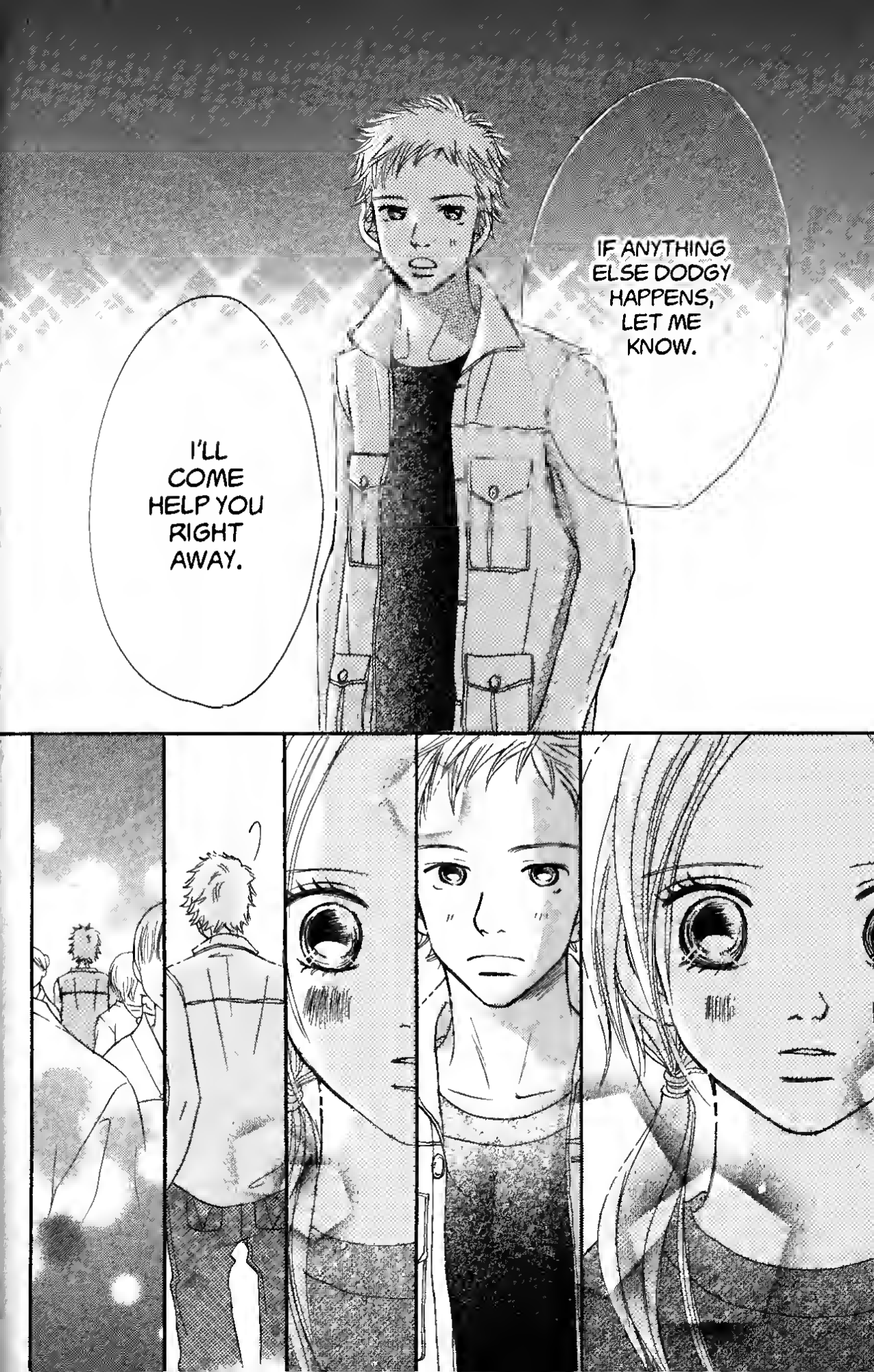
SORRY, BUT SHE'S MY GIRLFRIEND...
...SO LAY OFF.
EH?
HUH?
LET'S GO.
WHAT?

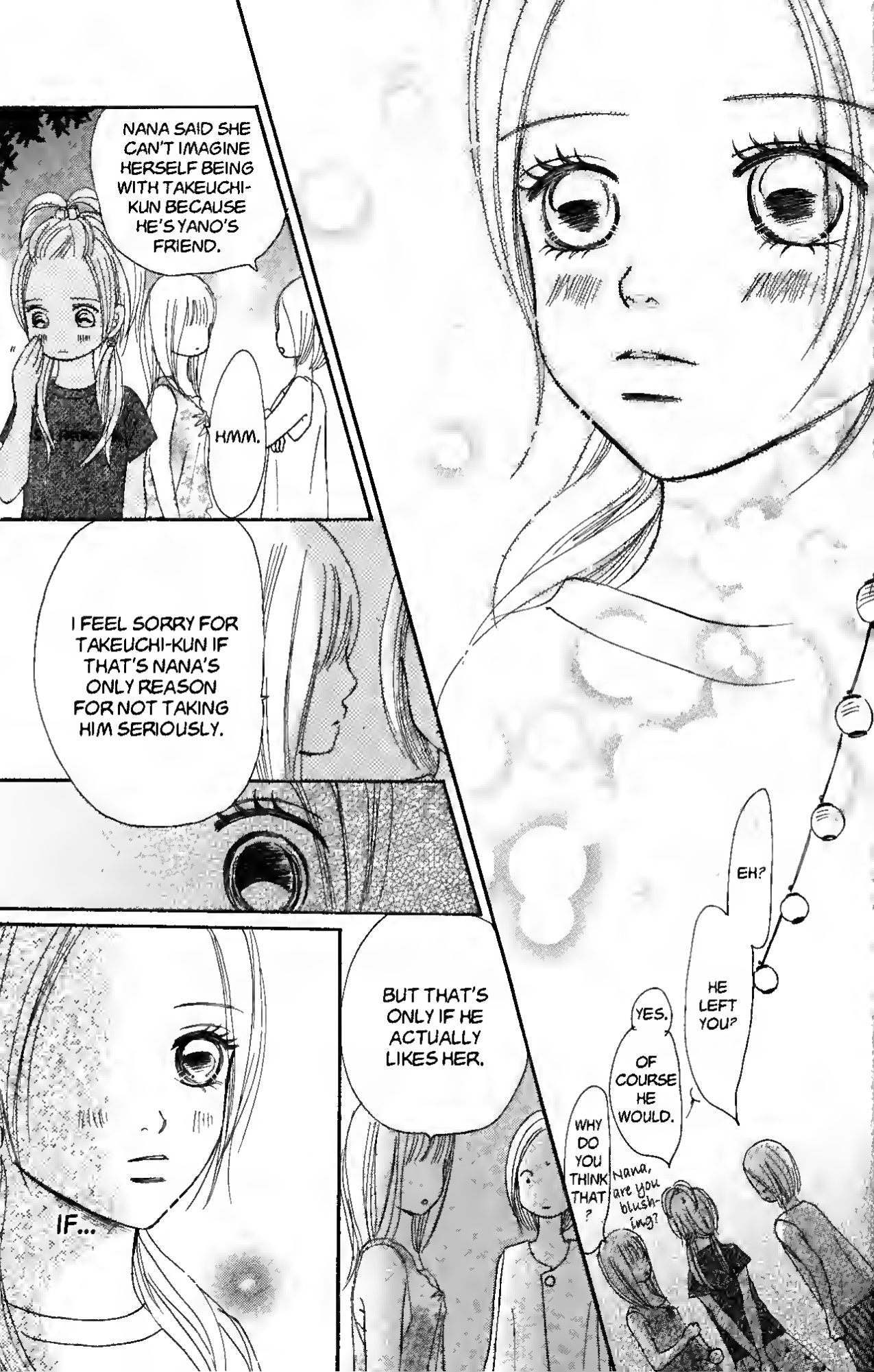

WHAT JUST HAP-PENED?
HE'S A SHILL.
A WHAT?
THAT GUY GIVES YOU THE TURTLE FOR FREE, AND THEN THE SHOPKEEPER SELLS YOU THE FOOD AT A HIGH PRICE!
HE AND THE STALL KEEPER ARE BOTH IN ON IT.
HUH?
IT'S HARD TO REFUSE WHEN YOU JUST GOT THE TURTLE FOR FREE.
OH. I DIDN'T KNOW...

It was just easier in dealing with those kind of guys, so...
I'M SORRY I CALLED YOU MY GIRL-FRIEND.
OH!!
blush
EH?
IT'S FINE.
THANKS FOR YOUR HELP.
UHH.
I'LL SEE YOU AROUND...
YOU OKAY?
KLMP
AH.
IT'S OKAY.
WE GOT SEPARATED FROM MIZUGUCHI, DIDN'T WE?
SHE JUST TEXTED ME.
Good luck with Takeuchi-kun!☆
OH.
YEAH.
I'M FINE.

TAKEUCHI-KUN...
YOU KNOW A LOT ABOUT IT.
YEAH...
I HAVE A FRIEND WHO WAS OFFERED A JOB LIKE THAT.
...HAS SUCH KIND EYES.


I'M HANGING OUT WITH MY NEIGHBORHOOD FRIENDS AGAIN THIS YEAR.
HA HA
ALL GUYS.
sad, huh
OH.
OKAY.
BYE.
BEING BY YOURSELF...
...IS LONELY.
TAKAHASHI.
WHAT WAS I EXPECTING ANYWAY?
STUPID...


IF ANYTHING ELSE DODGY HAPPENS, LET ME KNOW.
I'LL COME HELP YOU RIGHT AWAY.

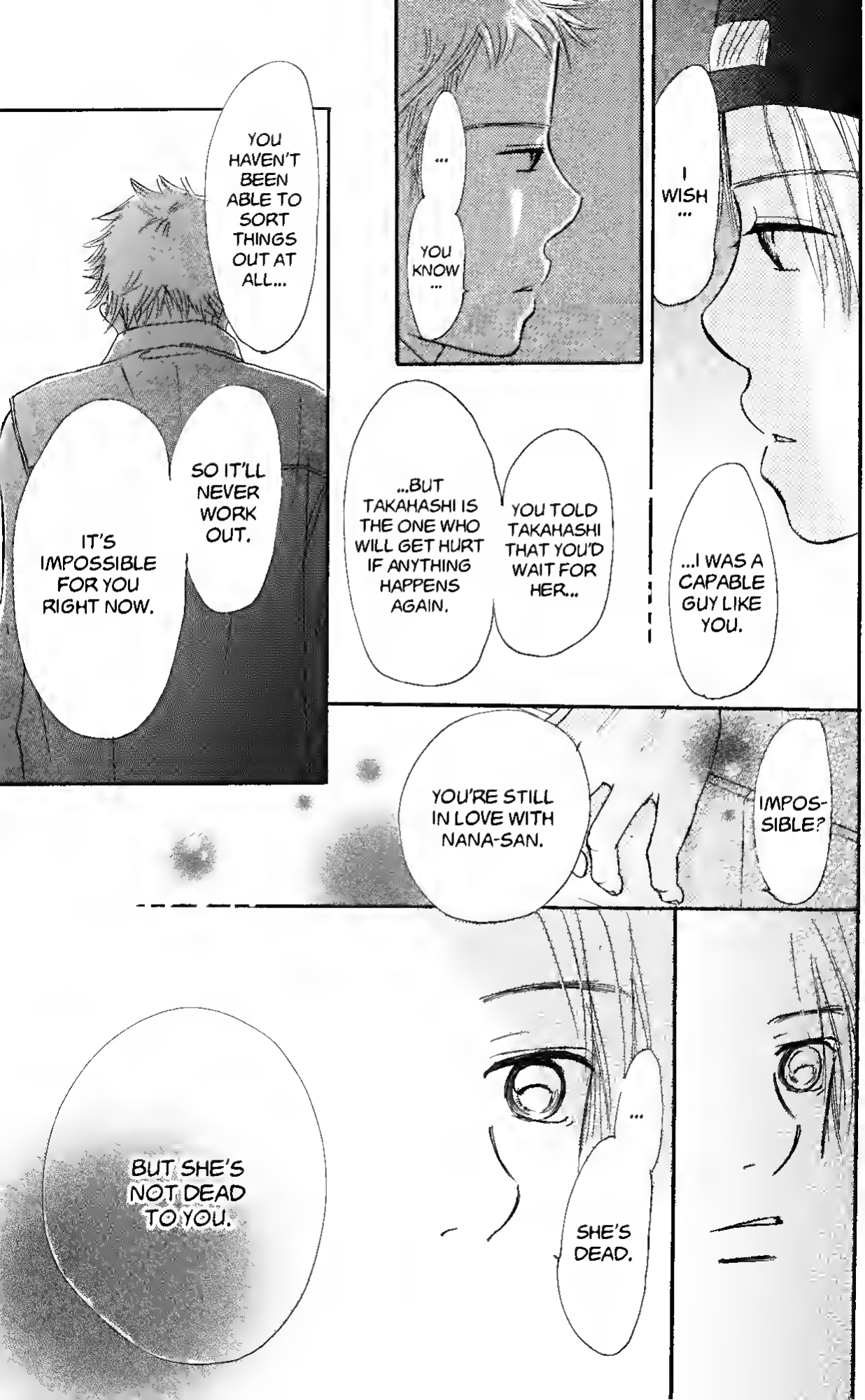

NANA SAID SHE CAN'T IMAGINE HERSELF BEING WITH TAKEUCHI-KUN BECAUSE HE'S YANO'S FRIEND.
HMM.
I FEEL SORRY FOR TAKEUCHI-KUN IF THAT'S NANA'S ONLY REASON FOR NOT TAKING HIM SERIOUSLY.
IF...
BUT THAT'S ONLY IF HE ACTUALLY LIKES HER.
EH?
HE LEFT YOU?
YES.
OF COURSE HE WOULD.
WHY DO YOU THINK THAT?
Nana, are you blushing?

I THOUGHT YOU WERE GOING TO INVITE HER OVER.
WHAT?
...TAKEUCHI-KUN LIKED ME...
...BECAUSE SHE SAID I'D NEVER ACT LIKE THAT.
HA.
SO WHY NOT INVITE HER?
HA HA HA
So sad for you...
...LEAVE HER ALONE.
SHE WANTED YOU TO...
WELL...
You want some tako-yaki?
GO DIE.
HA HA HA

...
HE DIDN'T SEE HER.
SHE'S NOT...
...WEARING A YUKATA.
IS SHE...
...WEARING THAT YUKATA?
dom
dom
HA
HA
HA
BUT SHE AND HER FRIENDS ARE SITTING DUCKS FOR THOSE STALL KEEPERS.
SITTING DUCKS?
AH...
DON'T WORRY, THOSE STALL KEEPERS DON'T PICK ON THE REALLY CUTE GIRLS.

HA
HA
HA
AH.
HE'S ...
...
HE'S A REALLY NICE GUY.

I'M...
...GOING TO GO FOR IT.
HUH.
WHEN?
WHAT'S THAT?
A THREAT?
IT'S JUST THE TRUTH.
YOU KNOW...
I'M NOT A GENEROUS, CAPABLE GUY LIKE YOU...
SO I'M NOT GOING TO SAY, "WE'LL ALWAYS BE FRIENDS NO MATTER WHAT," LIKE YOU WOULD.


I WISH ...
...I WAS A CAPABLE GUY LIKE YOU.
YOU TOLD TAKAHASHI THAT YOU'D WAIT FOR HER...
...BUT TAKAHASHI IS THE ONE WHO WILL GET HURT IF ANYTHING HAPPENS AGAIN.
...
YOU KNOW ...
YOU HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO SORT THINGS OUT AT ALL...
SO IT'LL NEVER WORK OUT.
IT'S IMPOSSIBLE FOR YOU RIGHT NOW.
IMPOS-SIBLE?
YOU'RE STILL IN LOVE WITH NANA-SAN.
...
SHE'S DEAD.
BUT SHE'S NOT DEAD TO YOU.

SO YOU DON'T HAVE THE RIGHT TO BE WITH TAKAHASHI.
I'M GOING TO BE THE ONE WHO IS THERE FOR HER.
YANO.
WE DON'T NEED TO MAKE A PROFIT.
AS LONG AS WE DON'T LOSE MONEY, IT'S FINE.
IT'S A SCHOOL FESTIVAL.
Anyway, we wouldn't get any customers if we raised the price.
YOU SEEM STUCK.
IT'S THIS.
NO MATTER HOW I CALCULATE IT, WE'LL HARDLY MAKE ANY PROFIT.
How many copies am I supposed to make?
HA HA HA

...
...
...
YOU HAVE A POINT.
...
EH?!
IT'S STUPID IF WE DON'T GET ANYTHING OUT OF IT.
CAN'T WE AT LEAST MAKE ENOUGH TO HAVE A PARTY?
YOU MEAN WE'RE ALL WORKING FOR FREE?
WE DON'T GET ANYTHING IN RETURN, EVEN AFTER ALL THE EFFORT WE'VE PUT IN?
HUH ...?
silence
They're fighting.
Again...
Here we go.
...
Menu
¥150
¥200
LEAVE THE PRICE FOR DRINKS THE SAME...
...BUT RAISE THE PRICE OF THE SIDE DISHES.
WE'LL NEED TO PROVIDE THE CUSTOMERS WITH SOME KIND OF SERVICE FOR THAT.
AH.
I LIKE IT.
I GUESS EVERY-BODY...
...WILL WORK HARDER THIS WAY.
If we do well, we'll be able to have a party for free!!

HEY...
CAN I ASK YOU SOME-THING?
HOW DO YOU...
...FORGET ABOUT SOMEONE WHO DIED?
HOW DO YOU...
...GET OVER YOUR GRIEF?
PLEASE ...
TELL ME.

IT'S IMPOSSI-BLE...
...TO FORGET THE DEATH OF SOME-ONE...
...CLOSE TO YOU.
IT WAS SCARY LAST YEAR, THOUGH.
I WONDER WHAT'S HAP-PENED.
OH...
YEAH.
HA HA HA
Dang!
This is really heavy.
WHAT'S THE MATTER?
I just came to get duct tape.
AH!
NOTH-ING.
THOSE TWO ARE GETTING ALONG THIS YEAR.

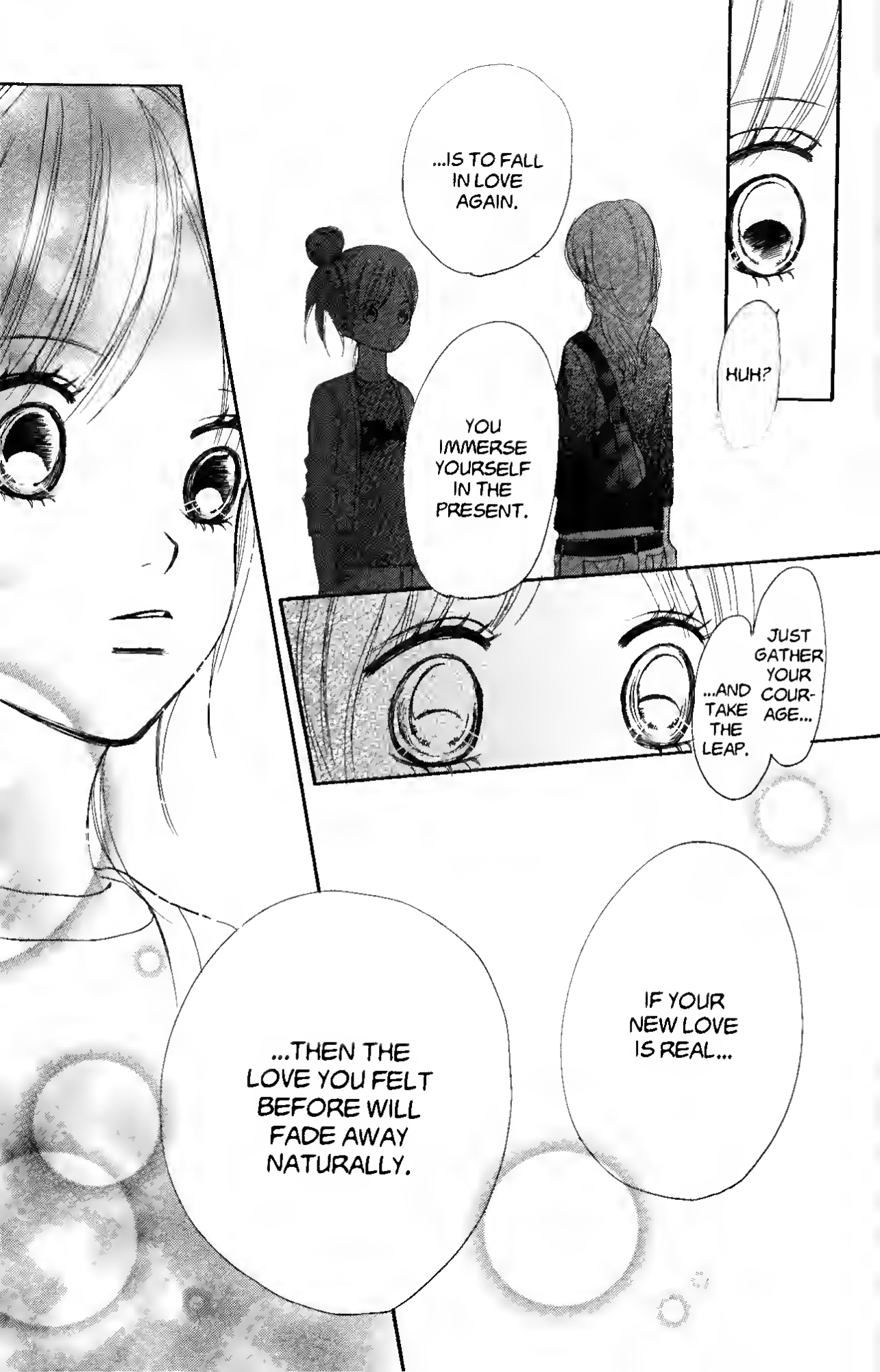
43rd K Festival
CLASS 2-7 IS DOING AN ASIAN-STYLE CAFÉ.
WE'VE GOT BEV-ERAGES AND SWEETS!
WE GIVE DIS-COUNTS TO COUPLES TOO.
PHEW ...
IT'S HOT TODAY.
I GUESS WE DIDN'T MAKE ENOUGH.
We need to make more flyers.
NANA !!
HERE YOU ARE.
WANT A DRINK?
OH...
THIS IS NICE AND COLD...

OH...
LONG TIME NO SEE.
HUH.
...
THANKS, MIZU-CHIN.
I wonder what leaf this is?
IT'S REALLY YUMMY!!
WHAT IS IT?
IT'S FROM YANO.
HE SAID YOU MUST BE HAVING A TOUGH TIME PASSING OUT FLYERS IN THIS HEAT.
I'VE GOT ORDERS ...
2-7 ASIAN-STYLE CAFÉ
This is it...
TWO ICED TEAS.
Gyah!
WHAT THE HELL ARE THOSE TWO DOING HERE?!
shock
Eek!

WEL-COME...
Ha
WHAT'S WITH THE OUTFIT?
ONE ICED TEA...
UM.
AND ONE OF THOSE DRINKS YOU GAVE US.
THAT'S THE "MASTER'S SPECIAL MILK SHAKE."
Oh. So that's what it was.
UM.
IT...
IT WAS REALLY GOOD. WHAT'S IN IT?
BANANA, MILK, ICE, AND SYRUP.
Menu
Coffee ¥150
Iced Tea ¥200
Oolong Tea ¥150
Special Menu
Yano's Special Milk Shake
¥500
PHOTO STICKER
WHAT A RIP-OFF!!
I've got orders for...
...
Eh...
SO WHAT'S ASIAN ABOUT THIS PLACE?
OH. THIS.
cheap! LUCKY BAMBOO BOUGHT CHEAPLY FOR 10 YEN
...
skrtch
skrtch

ARE YOU OFF WORK TODAY?
I have a late shift.
Hurry up and leave!
UM. I never knew that
DID YOU USED TO GO TO THIS HIGH SCHOOL?
Don't say unneces-sary things
>>>
I'll never trust you again.
COME TO THINK OF IT...
DO THEY STILL HAVE THE LOVE CONFESSION TIME AT NIGHT?
I SEE... SO THEY STILL HAVE IT, HUH.
Brings back memo-ries...
I HAD A GUY CONFESS HIS FEELINGS FOR ME TOO. I WENT OUT WITH HIM ON A WHIM.
HEE HEE
We sure broke up fast, though.
EH... ...
IT'S TOO HOT IN HERE.
MOTO!! WE'LL HAVE THOSE DRINKS TO GO.
...
OKAY.

BUT THEY'RE ALL GOOD MEMORIES NOW.
BY THE WAY, HAVE YOU FOUND A NEW BOY-FRIEND?
HUH?
I HEARD YOU ENDED IT WITH YANO.
So I thought you had some-body new.
OH.
NO, IT'S NOTHING LIKE THAT.
I STILL...
...HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO GET OVER IT MYSELF.
SO I STILL...
GET OVER IT?
LOOK HERE...
THE WAY TO FORGET ABOUT YOUR LAST LOVE...


...IS TO FALL IN LOVE AGAIN.
HUH?
YOU IMMERSE YOURSELF IN THE PRESENT.
JUST GATHER YOUR COUR-AGE...
...AND TAKE THE LEAP.
IF YOUR NEW LOVE IS REAL...
...THEN THE LOVE YOU FELT BEFORE WILL FADE AWAY NATURALLY.

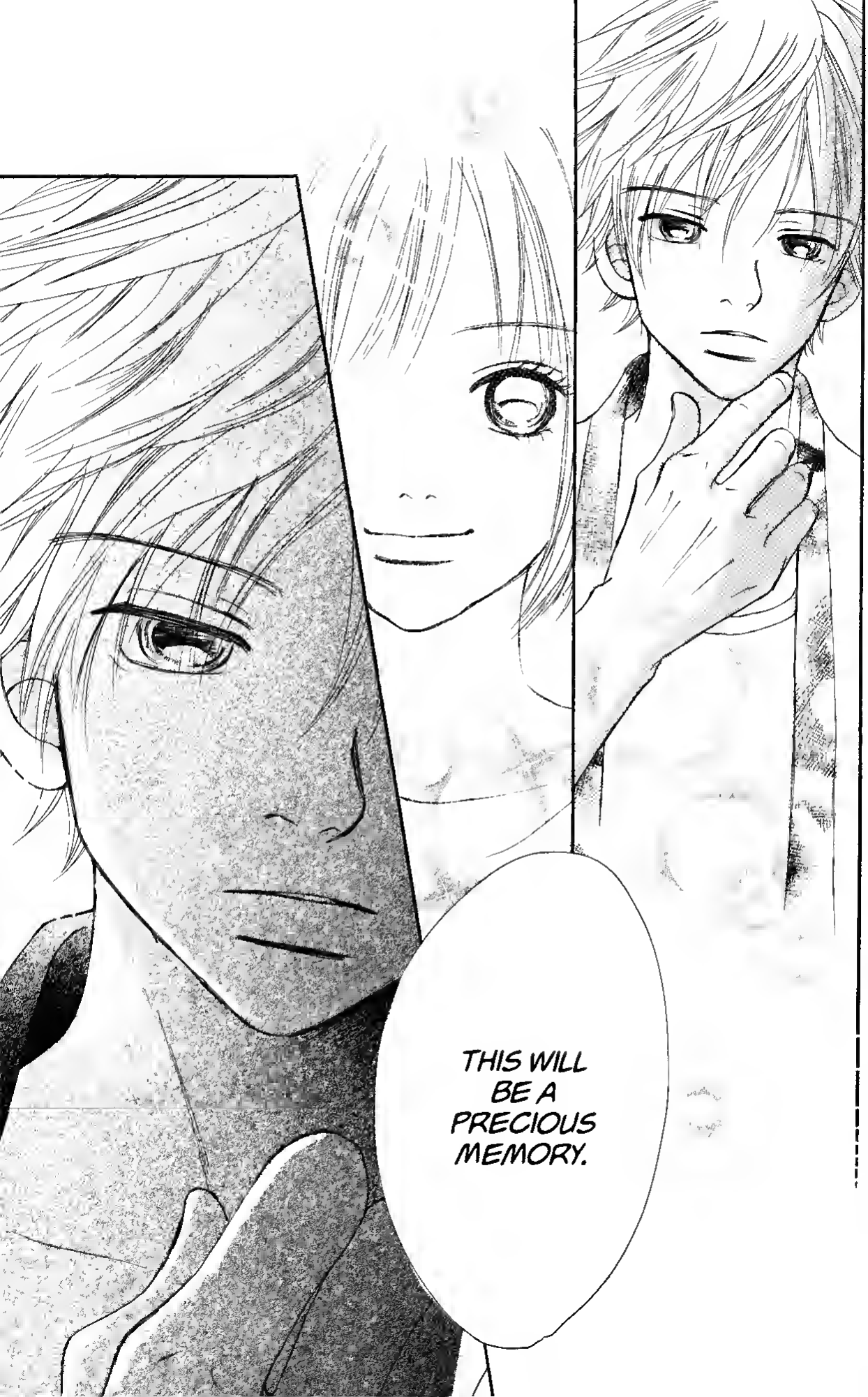
ARE YOU...
...TALKING ABOUT ME?
OR...
WELL...
OH...
THE ONLY WAY TO HEAL A BROKEN HEART IS WITH LOVE.
YOU FORGET ABOUT YOUR OLD LOVE BECAUSE YOU'VE FOUND A NEW LOVE.
YOU DON'T FIND A NEW LOVE BECAUSE YOU'VE FORGOTTEN YOUR OLD LOVE.
...IT'S STILL...
...A CHOICE.
...OR NOT...
WHETHER YOU DO ANY-THING...
THINK IT OVER.
THEN CHOOSE.

...A CHOICE.
IT'S STILL...
NOW...
WHO WILL SHE TURN TO?
...
THAT'S GREAT, YAMAMOTO-SAN.
Unbelievable. That overpriced drink sold well.
WE HAVE ENOUGH TO HAVE A CLASS PARTY.
Good work.
NICE JOB!
THANK YANO...
After we take all the trash out, we need to get the lantern ready.
OH...
Ten more minutes.
THEY'RE REGULATING THE PARADE TRAFFIC.
Please line up!
WOO
HOO
AREN'T WE STARTING YET?

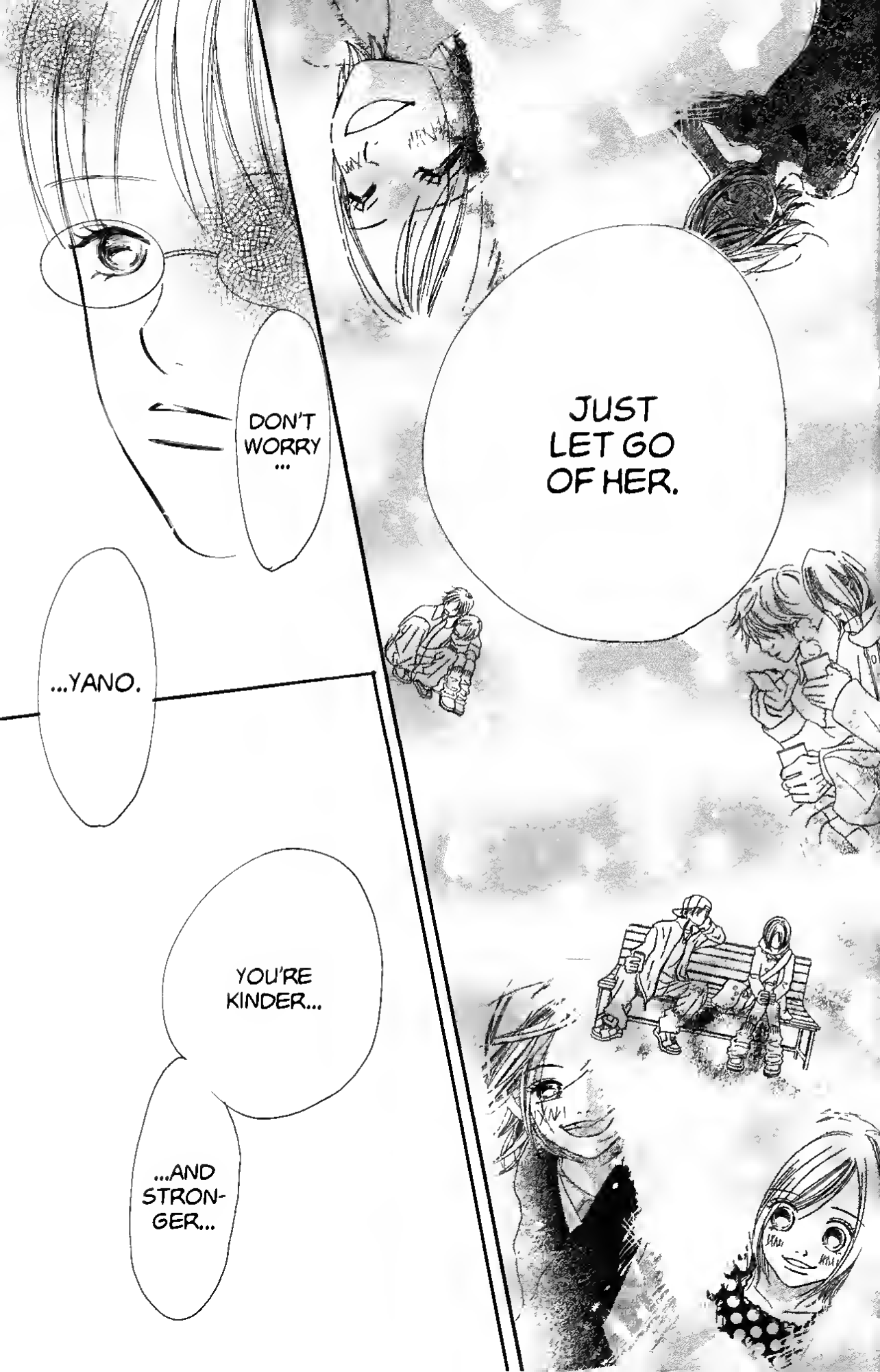
HA HA HA HA
Line up.
Line up.
IT'S IMPOSSIBLE FOR YOU RIGHT NOW.
BUT SHE'S NOT DEAD TO YOU.
I'M...
...GOING TO GO FOR IT.
I CAN'T MAKE YOU HAPPY.

IT'LL NEVER WORK OUT.
HEY.
ARE YOU SURE?
ABOUT GOING OUT WITH ME.
HUH?
I'M SUPPOSEDLY FAMOUS FOR BEING REALLY STUPID...
...SO I'LL PROBABLY WRECK YOUR REPUTATION, RIGHT?
NOPE.
THEY'RE STUPID FOR CALLING YOU STUPID.
HA HA
...
SO YOU THINK YOU'RE STUPID?
YEAH.
I KNOW I AM.
THEN YOU CAN'T BE.
ONLY STUPID PEOPLE DON'T REALIZE THEY'RE STUPID.
SO DON'T EVER..
...SAY YOU'RE STUPID AGAIN.

STUPID!
HA HA HA
I TRIPPED!
KYAH
YOU'RE STUPID FOR CALLING ME STUPID!


THIS WILL BE A PRECIOUS MEMORY.

BOTH MEMORIES AND DREAMS LACK REALITY.
YOU NEED TO REALIZE THAT SOON.
AND PUT IT BEHIND YOU.


DON'T WORRY ...
JUST LET GO OF HER.
...YANO.
YOU'RE KINDER...
...AND STRON-GER...

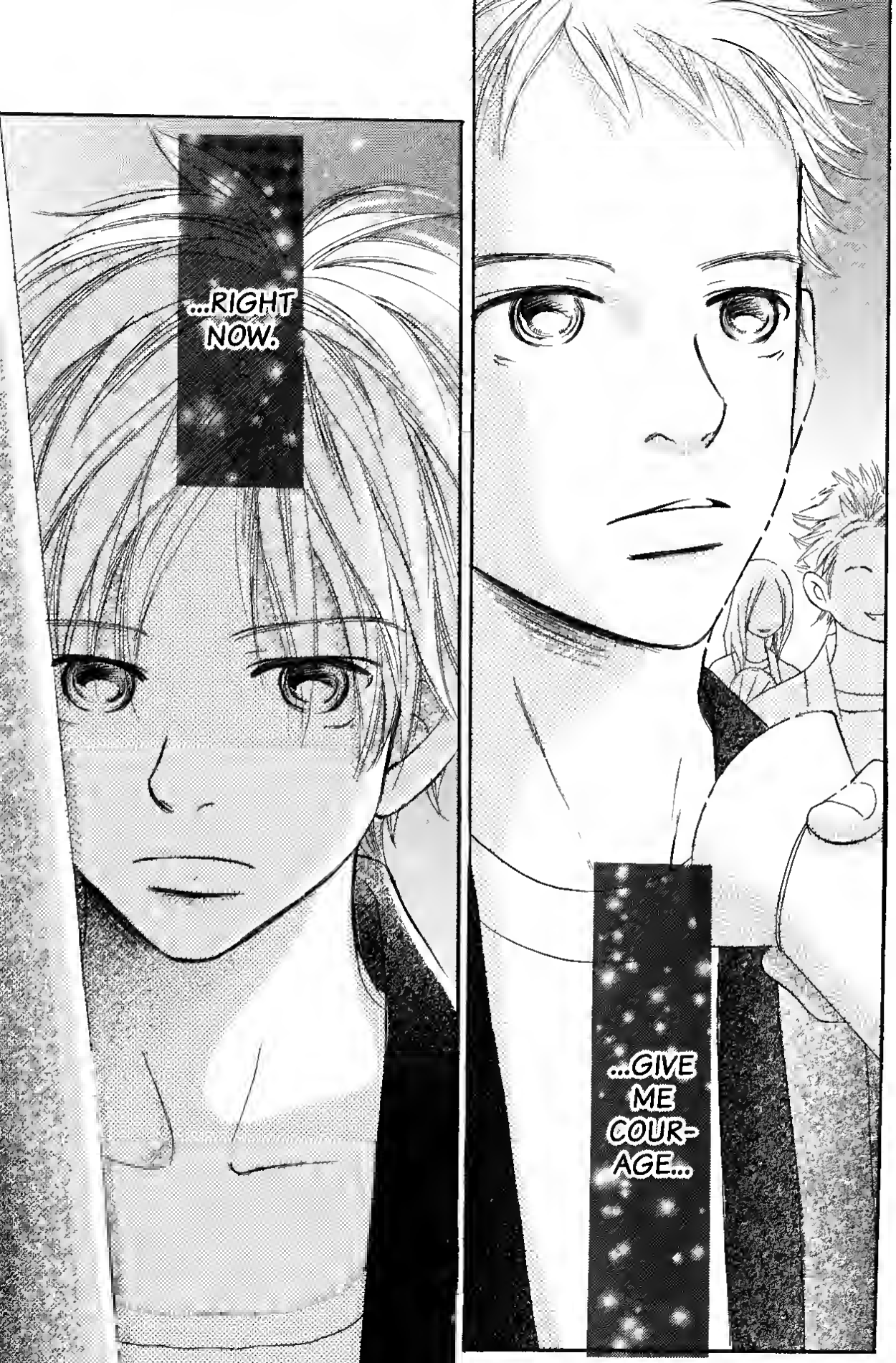
RAAH
...THAN YOU THINK YOU ARE.
Wasshoi!
Wasshoi!
IT'S CROWDED THIS YEAR.
OOH!
RAISE YOUR VOICES, EVERY-BODY...
YOU GUYS ARE TOO FAST!
YOU'LL TIRE YOUR-SELVES OUT.
Keep some distance from the class in front of you.

HEY...
BUY ME A DRINK IF SHE SAYS YES.
WHAT?
YOU'RE GOING TO TALK TO HER, RIGHT?
AND TELL HER YOU LIKE HER.
ACTUALLY I HAVEN'T MADE UP MY MIND YET.
Wasshoi!
WHAT?
HE'S BEEN MY FRIEND SINCE THE SIXTH GRADE.
I KNOW HIM BETTER THAN HIS FAMILY.
I'LL NEVER FIND ANOTHER FRIEND LIKE HIM.
I...
...DON'T WANT TO LOSE HIM.
SO YOU'RE CHOOSING FRIENDSHIP OVER LOVE?
I DON'T WANT TO LOSE EITHER OF THEM.
I'M BEING SELFISH.
BUT...

I'M GOING TO GO FOR IT.
SO IF I END UP LOSING A FRIEND TONIGHT...
...YOU BUY ME A DRINK.
DOES IT?
... A YEAR ... PASSES BY FAST, DOESN'T IT?
Wasshoi!
So you two weren't together for even a full year
COME TO THINK OF IT, IT WAS A YEAR AGO TODAY THAT YANO TOLD YOU HE LIKED YOU.
OH...
THMP
STOP!
Ah!

Wasshoi!
ISN'T MY TURN OVER?
NOT YET.
Wasshoi!
YOU HAVE TO WAIT UNTIL THE NEXT INTER-SECTION TO SWITCH.
YANO ...
WHO'S THAT?
HA HA
FRIENDS FROM MIDDLE SCHOOL.
I can't believe they came here.
Stop!
Stop!
WAIT FOR THE LIGHT TO CHANGE !!
Wait.
SOME-THING INTER-ESTING WILL HAPPEN TONIGHT.
I think...
HUH?

IF...
...YOUR NEW LOVE IS REAL...
I WONDER WHO WILL CRY...
...AND WHO WILL BE HAPPY.
WE'RE WAITING FOR THE LIGHT TO CHANGE...
PLEASE...


...RIGHT NOW.
...GIVE ME COUR-AGE...

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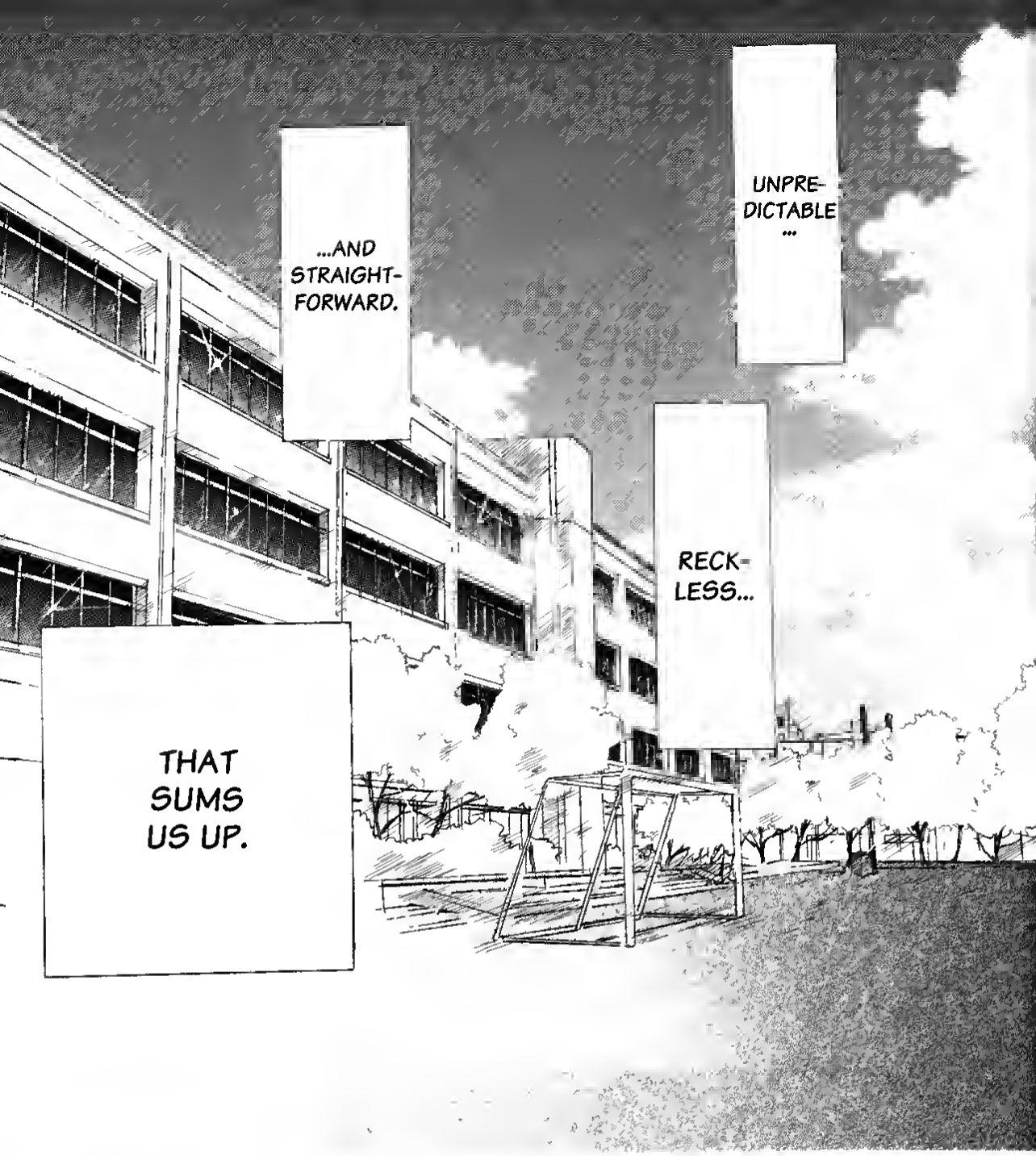
BONUS STORY

Run, Baby, Run


UNPRE-
DICTABLE
...
...AND
STRAIGHT-
FORWARD.
RECK-
LESS...
THAT
SUMS
US UP.

HEY.
CHECK IT OUT.
I DON'T LIKE THAT TYPE.
WHY NOT?
HA HA HA
BECAUSE SHE'S SHOWING HER BRA?
MASAFUMI TAKEUCHI, MIDDLE SCHOOL, SECOND YEAR
I DON'T LIKE GIRLS WHO MANAGE GUYS' TEAMS.
WHAT'S YOUR TYPE, TAKE?
HE LIKES GIRLS WITH SILKY BLACK HAIR!
HEY! SHUT UP.
SHE'S KINDA CUTE, DON'T YOU THINK?
she's my type.
IS IT ON PURPOSE?
THAT.
HA HA
IT'S LIGHT BLUE.
FOR REAL?
YOU CAN SEE HER BRA THROUGH HER SHIRT!!
KITA-ZAWA !!
The manager of the soccer team
WHO IS THAT?

I WAS 14 YEARS OLD. IT WAS SUMMER.
I WAS IN LOVE.
HERE.
YOU DROPPED THIS.
HEY...
HOW COME OUR CLASS HAS TO SING AN OKINAWAN FOLK SONG?
EH, IS THIS...
...A FOREIGN LANGUAGE?
Class Camping Trip Songs (Class 2-7)
Stars in Heaven
MAYBE I'M EXCITED BECAUSE THE CAMPING TRIP IS ALMOST HERE...
THANKS.
slmp
HER NAME IS AZUSA HAYAMI.
SHE'S IN MY CLASS.
B-BMP
B-BMP
B-BMP

AFTER MOTO GOT A COOL HAIRSTYLE, THE GIRLS IN FIRST YEAR STARTED A FAN CLUB FOR HIM.
We made cookies in Home Ec today...
WE'RE YOUR PRIVATE FAN CLUB.
KYAH KYAH
SO... WHAT KIND OF ACTIVITIES DO YOU DO?
WE TAKE PHOTOS AND STUFF. ♡
KYAH
PHOTOS?
OKAY...
KYAH
Really?!
KYAH
I'LL OFFICIALLY RECOGNIZE THIS FAN CLUB.
SO... YOU'LL PAY ME MEMBERSHIP FEES?
MAYBE I'LL START A FAN CLUB TOO... THE HAYAMI FAN CLUB (ONE MEMBER).
SNEAK SHOT (HALF-NAKED AT HOME)
WE HAVE A LOT OF PHOTOS, SEE?
...
zark

HM. I DON'T KNOW AS MUCH AS I THOUGHT.
FACTS ABOUT HER WOULD BE...
HAIR: SILKY
ADDRESS: MIDORI-CHO
SEAT NUMBER: 27
SPORT: TRACK TEAM
BIRTHDAY: ?
HEIGHT: 61 INCHES?

ACK!
...WENT TO EAT ICE CREAM WITH SOME GIRLS FROM CLASS 2.
YESTERDAY I...
IT'S SO COMFORTING.
...SMILE.
SHE HAS A CUTE...
SHE KISSED ME.
SHE TOLD YOU THAT SHE LIKED YOU?
Ah...
AND ON THE WAY BACK, I ENDED UP ALONE WITH KITAZAWA...
HA HA HA
peek
?
YOU'RE NOT GOING OUT WITH HER, RIGHT?
...
UM...
AH...
AMAZING. HE GOT KISSED JUST LIKE THAT.
EH?!
I THOUGHT YOU SAID YOU DIDN'T LIKE GIRLS WHO MANAGE GUYS' TEAMS!
BUT THE KISS MADE MY HEART THROB.
WOW... UNBELIEV-ABLE...
SHH!
SERIOUS-LY?!
ON THE LIPS?!
ON THE LIPS.

I CAN'T BELIEVE IT...
...
...
...
YOU CAN'T HELP HOW YOU FEEL, RIGHT?
AND ON THAT DAY...
...SO PLEASE MAKE SURE YOU LEARN THE SONG LYRICS.
I'LL PLAY THE MUSIC EVERY DAY AT LUNCH STARTING TODAY...
MRMR
MRMR
THE TRIP IS GET-TING CLOSE ...
IF YOU LEARN WHAT THE LYRIC MEANS, IT'LL BE EASIER TO REMEM-BER.
I DON'T GET THIS AT ALL.
AH, CRAP...
...THOSE TWO LEFT SCHOOL ...
...HOLDING HANDS.
KRRK
HUH...?
Everyone is complaining that it's hard to memorize
SORRY, I'M THE ONE WHO CHOSE THIS SONG.
OH!
I WASN'T ...

I SEE...
B-BMP
B-BMP
I CAN SEE HER IN THIS...
I REALLY ...
SHE HEARD ME!
I DIDN'T MEAN... THAT...
TELL ME IF THERE ARE ANY WORDS YOU CAN'T READ.
UM. IS THIS YOUR HAND-WRITING, HAYAMI?
YEAH.
HUH?
...LIKE THE LYRIC HERE.
LONG WHITE FINGERS...
"MY WAN-DERING FEEL-INGS...
"MY WAN-DERING FEELINGS MOVE ACROSS THE NIGHT...
"...MOVE ACROSS THE NIGHT...
"...AND MAY BECOME A STAR.
"I CAN HEAR THE SOUND OF THE FLUTE OF MY LOVED ONE.
...AND MAY BECOME A STAR.
"UNDER-NEATH THE STARS IN HEAVEN."

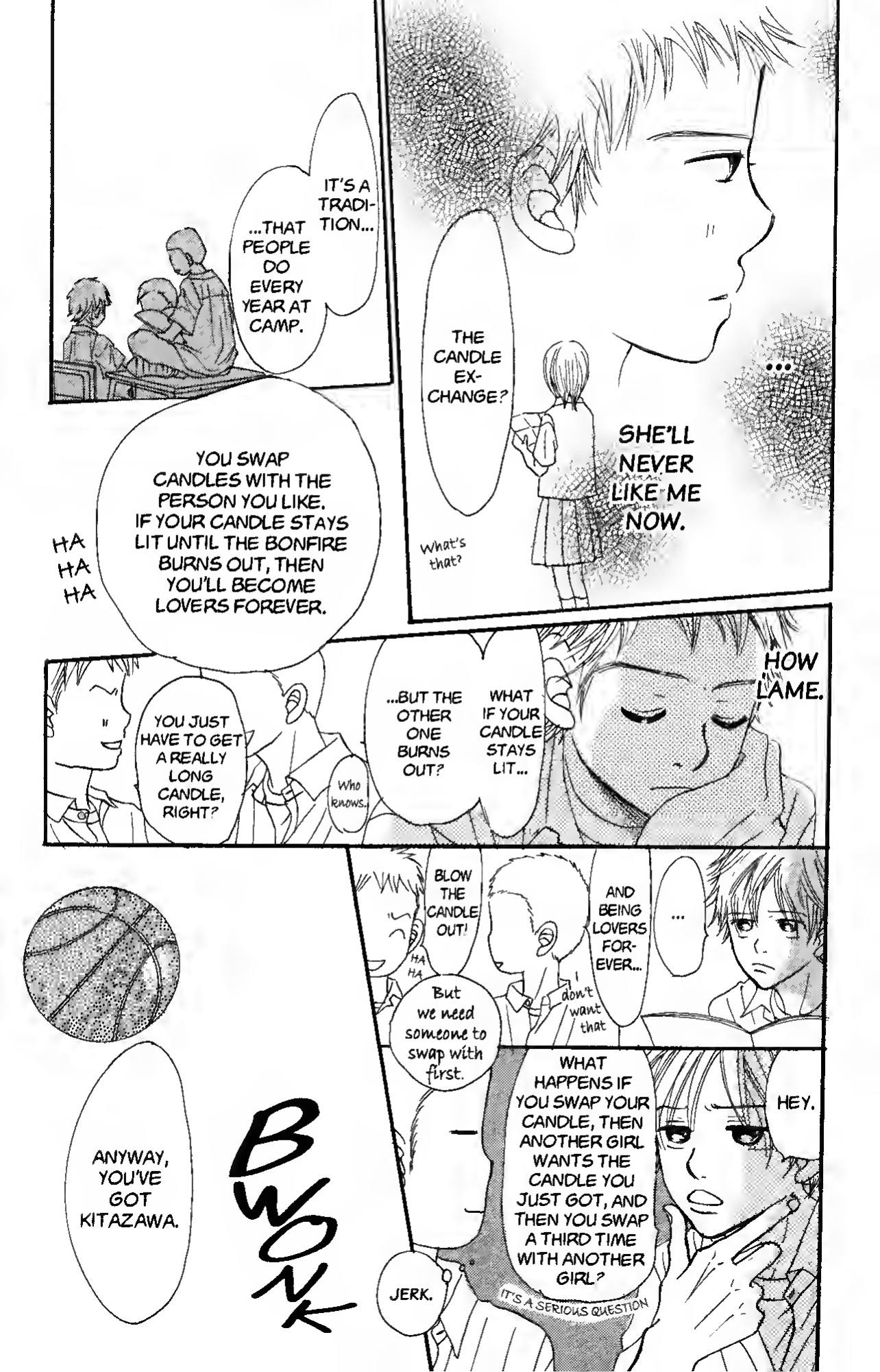
HEARING THE MUSIC OF SOME-ONE YOU LOVE ON A SUMMER NIGHT...
IT'S ROMANTIC, DON'T YOU THINK?
AH.
YEAH.
THE SOUND OF THE FLUTE.
THE SOUND OF THE FLUTE...
DID I PICK TOO GIRLY OF A SONG ...
...FOR THE CLASS TO SING ON THE CAMPING TRIP?
...
NO, YOU DIDN'T!
I UNDER-STAND WHY YOU CHOSE THIS!!
I REALLY, REALLY UNDER-STAND WHY YOU PICKED THESE LYRICS.
IF YOU'D LIKE...
...I CAN COPY THE SONG TO A CD FOR YOU.
BEAUTIFUL.

The bright shining
I can hear the
sound of
the flute
loved one
SO...
THIS IS THE SONG HAYAMI LIKES.

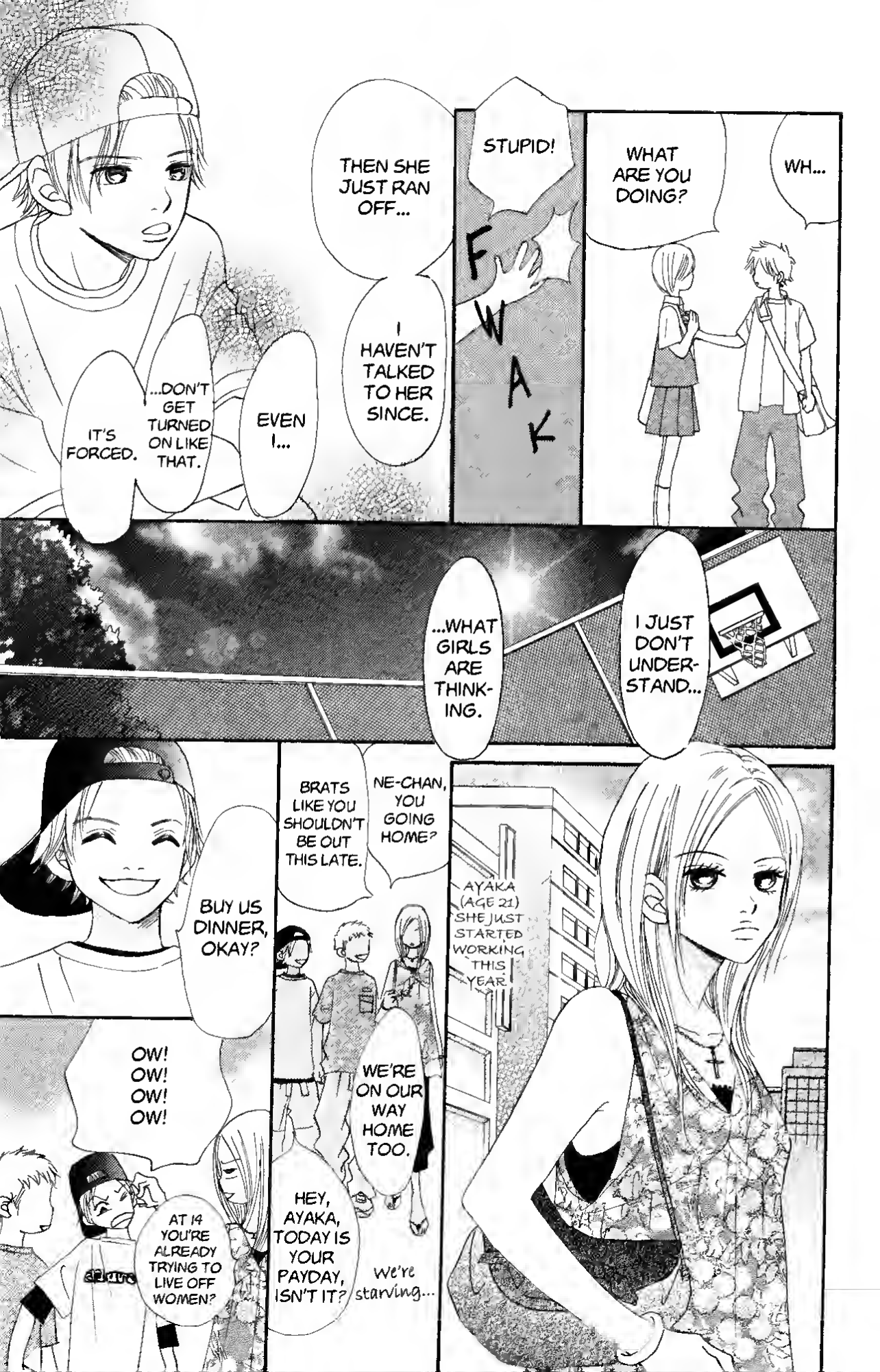
HUH?!
YOU WANT HAYAMI TO BLOW YOUR FLUTE!
WELL... SO...
HOW CAN I PUT IT?
IT'S AS IF I CAN HEAR IT TOO.
AT NIGHT.
HEAR WHAT?
HAYAMI PLAYING THE FLUTE.
HA! YOU PERVERT! ♡
...
...
SORRY.
AHH... DAMN IT!

KRRK
SHE OVER-HEARD.
HAYAMI!
I'M SORRY ABOUT THAT.
BUT I WAS THE ONE WHO SAID IT. IT'S GOT NOTHING TO DO WITH TAKE.
HEY!
IT'S NOTHING...
...TO GET PISSED ABOUT, IS IT?
IT'S NOTH-ING?!

YOU'RE APOLOGIZ-ING...
...ONLY BECAUSE OF TAKEUCHI-KUN, AND NOT BECAUSE YOU REGRET WHAT YOU SAID, RIGHT?
DON'T THINK YOU CAN TREAT GIRLS LIKE THAT!!
...
HM.
SO YOU THINK IT WAS A PERSONAL INSULT.
YOU MUST NOT THINK VERY WELL OF YOUR-SELF TO TAKE IT THAT WAY.
WHAT A JERK!
HE'S AWFUL!
As the boat glides...
2 - 7
The bright shining river of stars
IT SOUNDS LIKE A SUTRA CHANT ...
OUR CLASS SOUNDS BAD.


IT'S A TRADITION...
...THAT PEOPLE DO EVERY YEAR AT CAMP.
THE CANDLE EXCHANGE?
...
SHE'LL NEVER LIKE ME NOW.
What's that?
HA HA HA
YOU SWAP CANDLES WITH THE PERSON YOU LIKE. IF YOUR CANDLE STAYS LIT UNTIL THE BONFIRE BURNS OUT, THEN YOU'LL BECOME LOVERS FOREVER.
YOU JUST HAVE TO GET A REALLY LONG CANDLE, RIGHT?
Who knows.
...BUT THE OTHER ONE BURNS OUT?
WHAT IF YOUR CANDLE STAYS LIT...
HOW LAME.
BLOW THE CANDLE OUT!
HA HA
But we need someone to swap with first.
I don't want that
AND BEING LOVERS FOREVER...
...
HEY.
WHAT HAPPENS IF YOU SWAP YOUR CANDLE, THEN ANOTHER GIRL WANTS THE CANDLE YOU JUST GOT, AND THEN YOU SWAP A THIRD TIME WITH ANOTHER GIRL?
IT'S A SERIOUS QUESTION
JERK.
ANYWAY, YOU'VE GOT KITAZAWA.
BWONK

WE BROKE UP.
REALLY ...?
That was fast.
WHY?
YOU'VE GOT TO HEAR ME OUT...
SO LAST WEEK, WE WERE GOING HOME TOGETHER LIKE ALWAYS.
BUT IT ENDED UP BEING A LITTLE LATER THAN USUAL...
...AND WE WALKED THROUGH A DIMLY LIT PARK—
AH!
YOU SUCK, YANO...
LISTEN TO THE WHOLE STORY.
OH... YOU DIDN'T DO ANY-THING?
SERIOUSLY ?!
SERI-OUSLY !!
PBFF
SHE PRESSED MY HAND AGAINST HER BREAST.
SUDDENLY, KITAZAWA PULLED ME BEHIND A TREE!!
AND WHAT DO YOU THINK SHE DID?


WH...
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
STUPID!
FWAK
THEN SHE JUST RAN OFF...
I HAVEN'T TALKED TO HER SINCE.
EVEN I...
...DON'T GET TURNED ON LIKE THAT.
IT'S FORCED.
I JUST DON'T UNDER-STAND...
...WHAT GIRLS ARE THINK-ING.
AYAKA (AGE 21) SHE JUST STARTED WORKING THIS YEAR.
NE-CHAN, YOU GOING HOME?
BRATS LIKE YOU SHOULDN'T BE OUT THIS LATE.
WE'RE ON OUR WAY HOME TOO.
We're starving...
HEY, AYAKA, TODAY IS YOUR PAYDAY, ISN'T IT?
BUY US DINNER, OKAY?
OW! OW! OW! OW!
AT 14 YOU'RE ALREADY TRYING TO LIVE OFF WOMEN?

KICK
WHY'D YOU DO THAT?
THE SEAT FARTHER AWAY FROM THE ENTRANCE IS FOR THE WOMAN OR YOUR BOSS.
OUCH...
OW!
OW!
Phoo
AS IS THE WINDOW SEAT IN A VEHICLE.
...
...
MRMR
MRMR
YOU SHOULD BE GRATEFUL.
YOU GET A FREE MEAL, PLUS YOU GET TO LEARN HOW TO BE GENTLEMEN.
ONE DAY YOU'RE GOING TO HUMBLY THANK ME.
NAH.
I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF GIRLS.
ME TOO.
...?
WHAT'S WITH THEM?
I'll get the giant sirloin steak set.
I'll have the fillet steak with rice.

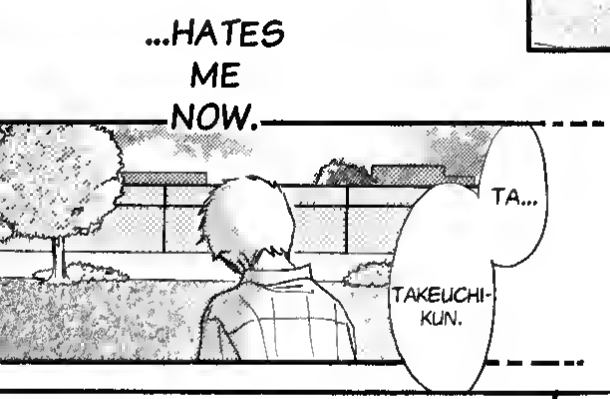
I NOMINATE HAYAMI-SAN.
OH
ANY OTHER NOMINATIONS?
HE WAS SLEEPING.
YUP
OH. IT'S FOR THE PERSON WHO WILL LIGHT THE BONFIRE.
WHAT?
HAYAMI?
IF THERE'S NO ONE ELSE...
Anybody?
HAYAMI, HUH...
I NOMINATE YANO-KUN!
IT'S GOT NOTHING TO DO WITH ME.
skrtch
WHATEVER.
Kyah!
IMAGE
SHE'S WEARING A HAPPI COAT FOR SOME REASON
I BET SHE'D LOOK REALLY CUTE.
...
WOO!
YANO-KUN.
YEAH!
HE'LL BE GREAT!
OH.
...
Oh!
BUT...
Hayami
JUST A MINUTE.
Yano

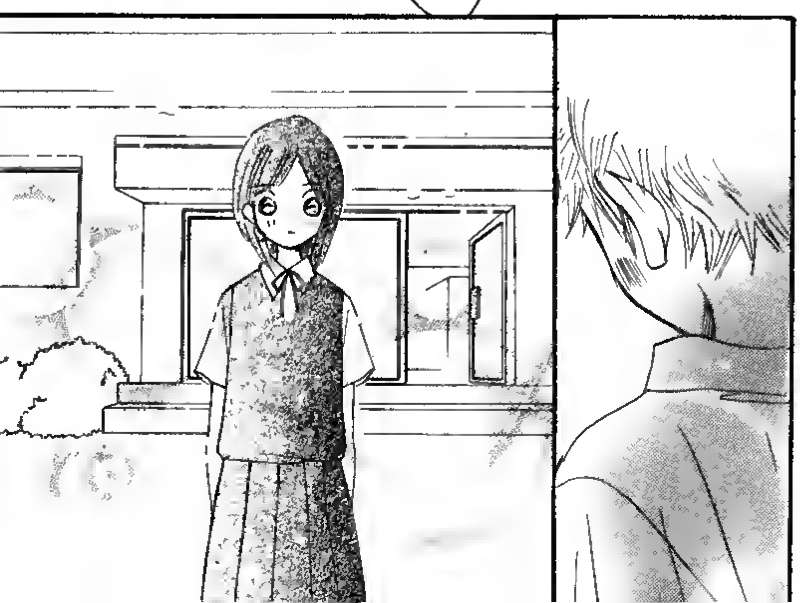
...
IF SHE'S UP AGAINST YANO...
...THERE'S NO WAY SHE'LL WIN.
OKAY. LET'S VOTE.
I'LL FEEL BAD FOR HAYAMI IF SHE LOSES...
...ESPECIALLY WHEN SOMEBODY NOMINATED HER FIRST.
DON'T BE SAD, HAYAMI.
BUT YOU NOMINATED HAYAMI! DON'T BETRAY HER!
YANO, I THINK.
HEY. WHO ARE YOU VOTING FOR?
THEN...
RAISE YOUR HAND IF YOU VOTE FOR HAYAMI-SAN.
ANY-ONE?
...
...
...YOU'RE STILL THE NO. 1 GIRL IN OUR CLASS!! (TO ME, ANYWAY.)
EVEN IF YOU LOSE...

ANY-ONE ?
SO ALL THE PEOPLE NOT RAISING THEIR HANDS VOTE FOR YANO-KUN ...?
MRMR
EVEN IF THEY MAKE FUN OF ME...
THIS...

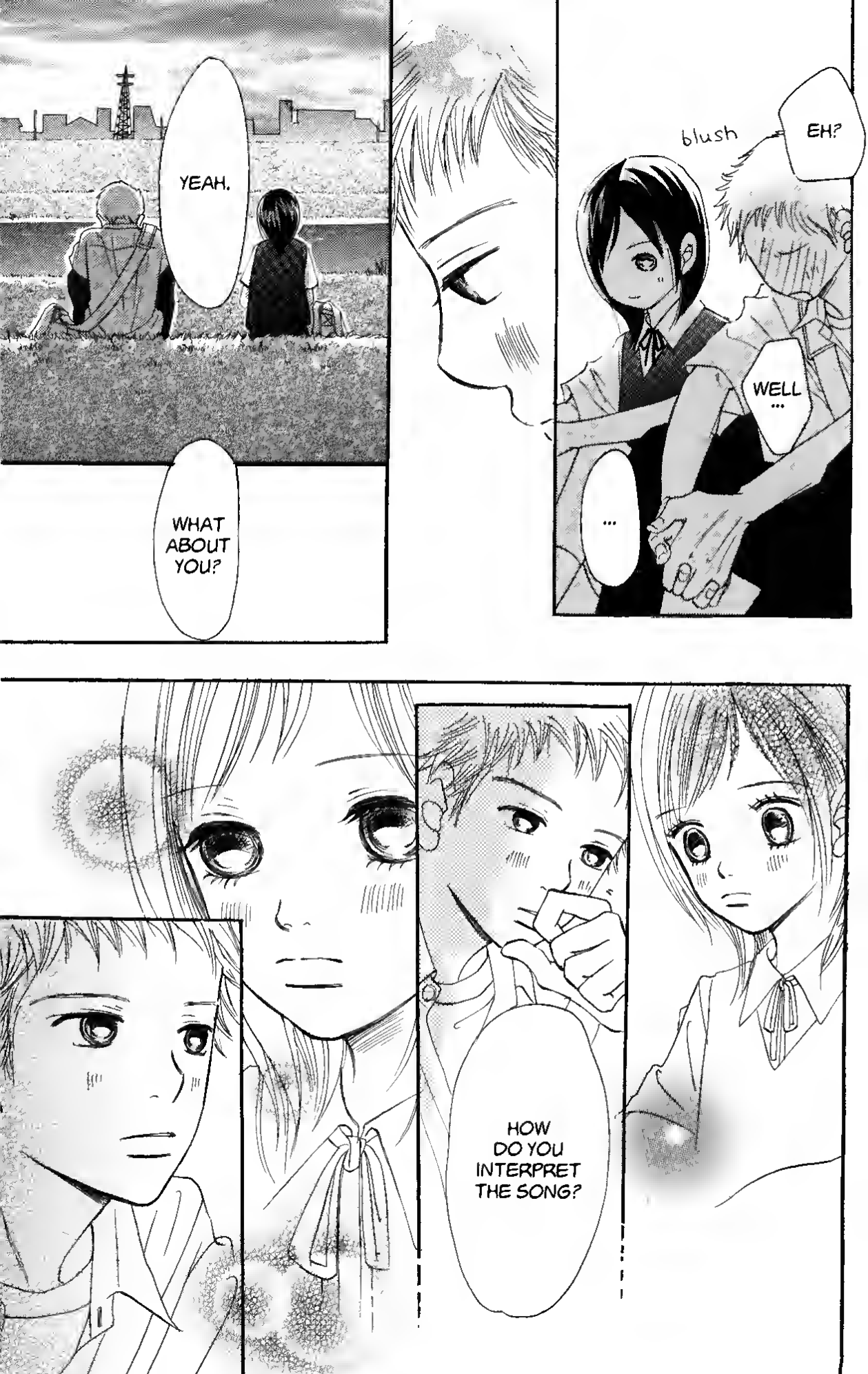
...IS NOTHING.
NO MATTER WHAT ANY-ONE ELSE SAYS.
...THE BEST.
YOU'RE...
AFTER ALL...
I REALLY WANTED TO VOTE FOR HAYAMI.

...IN FRONT OF EVERY-BODY.
I PRETTY MUCH SHOWED MY FEEL-INGS...
THEY EVEN DREW OUR NAMES UNDER AN UMBRELLA ON THE BLACK-BOARD.
Take Hayami
All my classmates are cruel and cold-blooded.
...
I BET SHE REALLY...


...HATES ME NOW.
TA...
TAKEUCHI-KUN.



...
YEAH...
I'M GLAD YOU LIKE IT.
I'VE NEVER REALLY LISTENED TO LOVE SONGS MUCH, BUT...
FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MY LIFE I FELT LIKE BELIEVING IN GOD.
WHAT?
ISN'T IT A LOVE SONG?
YOU THINK IT'S A LOVE SONG?
I CAN SING THAT SONG WITHOUT LOOKING AT THE LYRICS.
REALLY?
YEAH. I LIKE IT, SO I LISTEN TO IT A LOT.
OH.
THE LOOSE TRANSLA-TION MAKES IT SEEM LIKE THAT...
...BUT IT CAN BE INTER-PRETED IN A LOT OF WAYS.
HMM.
A PERSON LISTENING TO IT CAN CONNECT IT TO WHAT'S HAPPENING IN HIS OR HER OWN LIFE.
YOU'RE...
...IN LOVE, AREN'T YOU?


YEAH.
WHAT ABOUT YOU?
blush
EH?
WELL ...
...
HOW DO YOU INTERPRET THE SONG?

YES!!

...
...
MAY I HAVE MONEY TO GO GET A HAIR-CUT?
"MOTHER"?
MOTHER.
HERE.
THIS IS IT.
THIS IS IT.
THIS IS IT.
JUVENILE DELIN-QUENTS?!
WHAT KIND OF REASON-ING IS THAT?!
old hag...
IT'S NO GOOD. HE DOESN'T HAVE GOOD TASTE.
IF YOU WANT A FANCY HAIRCUT, WHY DON'T YOU TAKE A MAGAZINE PHOTO TO MR. SANNOMIYA AND ASK HIM TO MATCH IT.
I CAN'T ALLOW IT. ONLY JUVENILE DELINQUENTS GO TO HAIR SALONS WHEN THEY'RE IN MIDDLE SCHOOL.
BEFORE WHEN I ASKED HIM TO GIVE ME MOHAWK, I ENDED UP LOOKING LIKE TINTIN.
OH, HOW MUCH?
I WANT TO GO TO A HAIR SALON, NOT THE USUAL BARBER.
WELL...
UM.
AROUND 4,000 YEN, I THINK.
THAT'S EXPEN-SIVE.

SO... THERE'S A GIRL YOU HAVE A CRUSH ON?
blush
...
I WILL.
DEFINITE-LY.
YOU THINK YOU CAN GET HER TO GO OUT WITH YOU?
OKAY...
A foot massage every day for 30 minutes.
BRITISH STYLE PLEASE.
DEMON ...
I'M GOING FOR IT.
HA... HAYAMI...
YOU WANT TO GO GET SOME ICE CREAM AFTER SCHOOL TODAY?
DEAR SISTER!!
GOD!!
BUT UNDER ONE CONDI-TION.
ANGEL!!

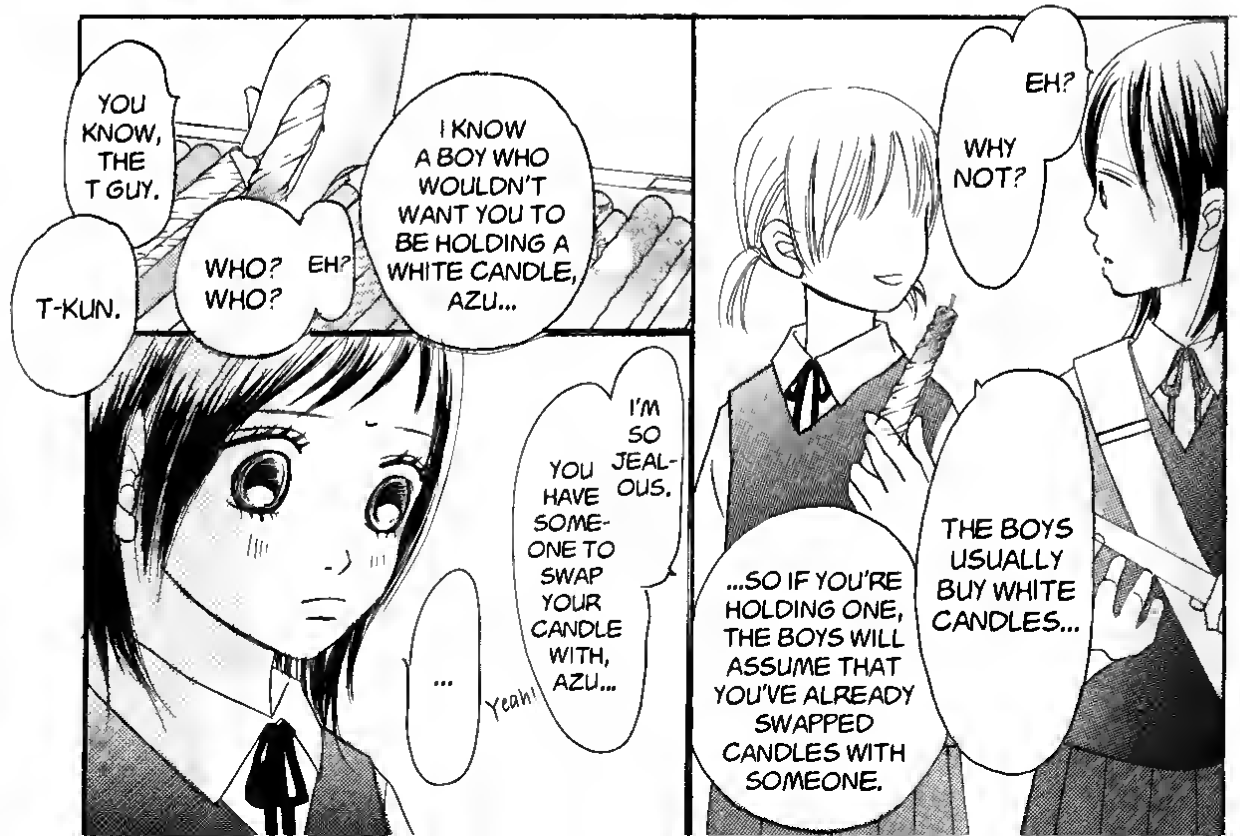
I'VE GOT MONEY, SO...
B-BUT...
...I HAVE TIME THE DAY AFTER TOMORROW!!
REJECTED!
OH.
I CAN'T.
I HAVE TRACK PRAC-TICE TODAY.
HE CHANGED HIS HAIR.
I DID IT!!
SHE'LL GET THE STRAW-BERRY FLAVOR.
THEN I'LL OFFER HER THE SEAT FARTHER FROM DOOR...
I'LL GET THE SESAME FLAVOR.
WHAT ARE YOU MUM-BLING ABOUT?
NOTH-ING.
THIS IS A MATCHMAKING SONG, ISN'T IT?

WHAT?
SO THEY'RE FEELINGS THAT WILL NEVER COME TRUE.
...FEELINGS THAT HAVE NO PLACE TO GO, RIGHT?
THE "WANDERING FEELINGS" ARE...
HUH?
IT'S A SONG ABOUT AN UNREQUITED LOVE.
OH!
IT'S IN PAST TENSE.
MRMR
"AND WAS WASHED ASHORE."
MRMR
IT MEANS IT'S OVER.
BUT IT SAYS HERE, "THE BOAT CARRYING THE TWO."
HA HA
AH.
HE'S RIGHT...
My wanderi
feelings move
across the nig
and may becom
star
BUT...
THIS SONG IS STILL BEAUTIFUL.
UNRE-QUITED LOVE.
YEAH.
I SEE...
A LOST LOVE.
I'M KIND OF SHOCKED, ACTUAL-LY.

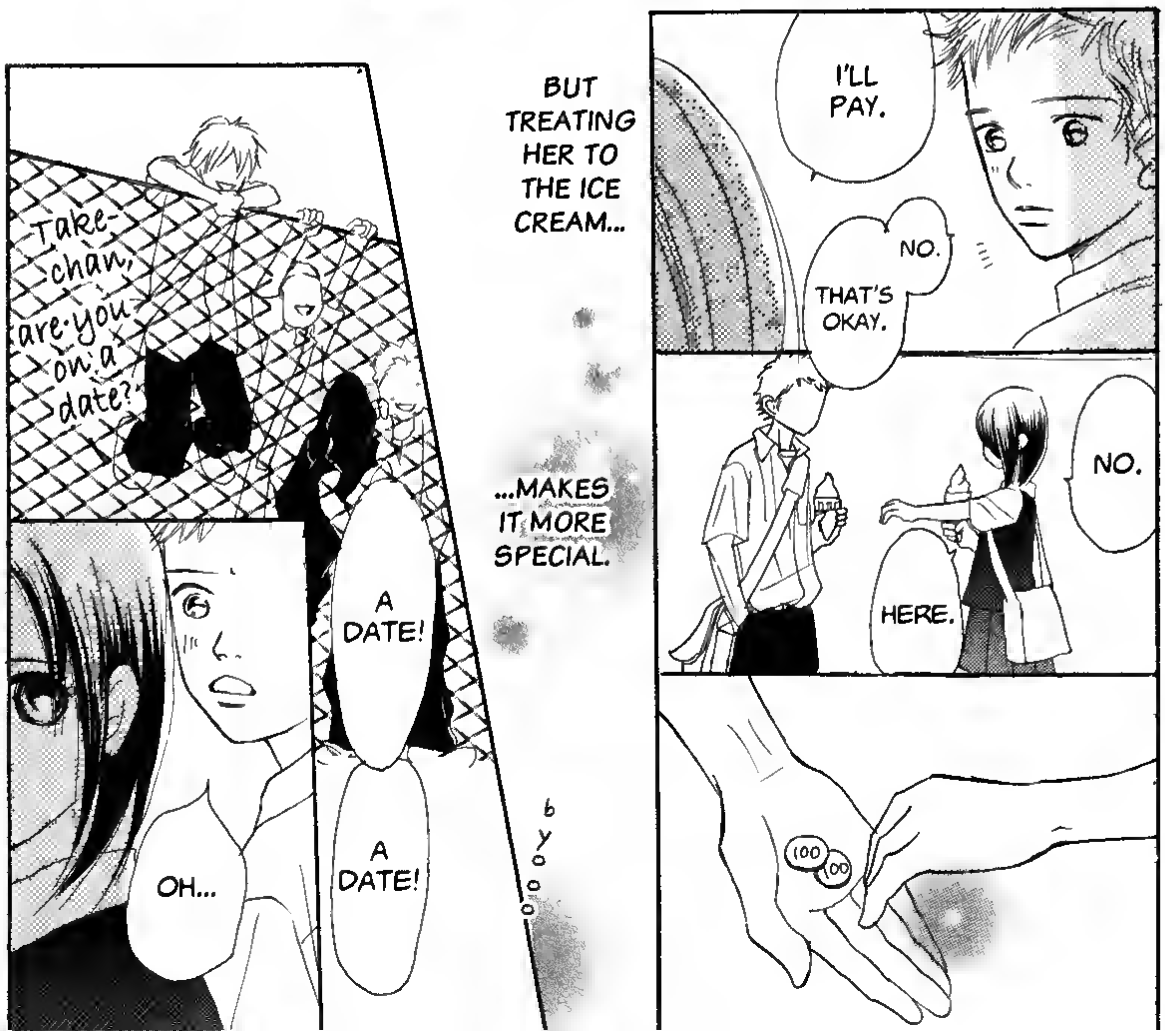
IT'S BEAUTIFUL...
...BECAUSE IT'S ABOUT UNREQUITED LOVE.
HA HA HA
EH?
YOU DON'T GET IT, DO YOU?
OF COURSE I DO!!
KRRK
BECAUSE IT'S ABOUT UNREQUITED LOVE?
UM.
UM...
I INTERPRET IT...
...DIFFERENTLY.
LOOK.
HERE.
OH...?
"MY WANDERING FEELINGS MOVE ACROSS THE NIGHT AND MAY BECOME A STAR," RIGHT?

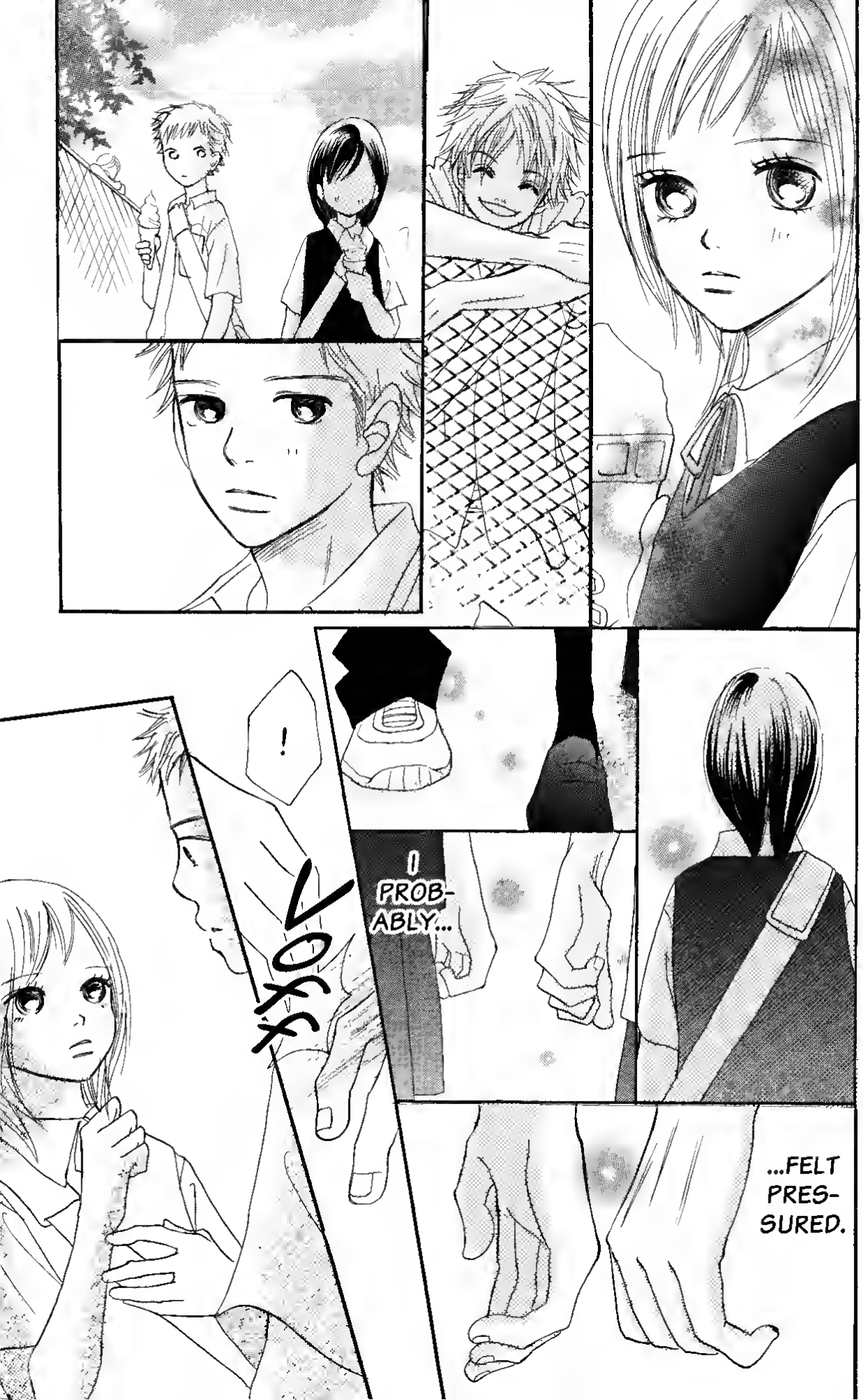
ONE NIGHT A MIRACLE MAY HAPPEN AND HER WISHES MAY COME TRUE!!
...BECOME A STAR!!
YOU'RE WRONG.
...
YOU SEE?
...
HEH
SO THE FEEL-INGS...
"BECOMING A STAR" MEANS IT WILL NEVER COME TRUE.
YOU KNOW THE SAYING ABOUT HOW PEOPLE BECOME STARS AFTER THEY DIE, RIGHT?
THE STAR IS A MEMORY.
...
I NEVER KNEW YOU WERE SUCH A ROMANTIC, YANO.
AND YOU'RE AN OPTIMIST.

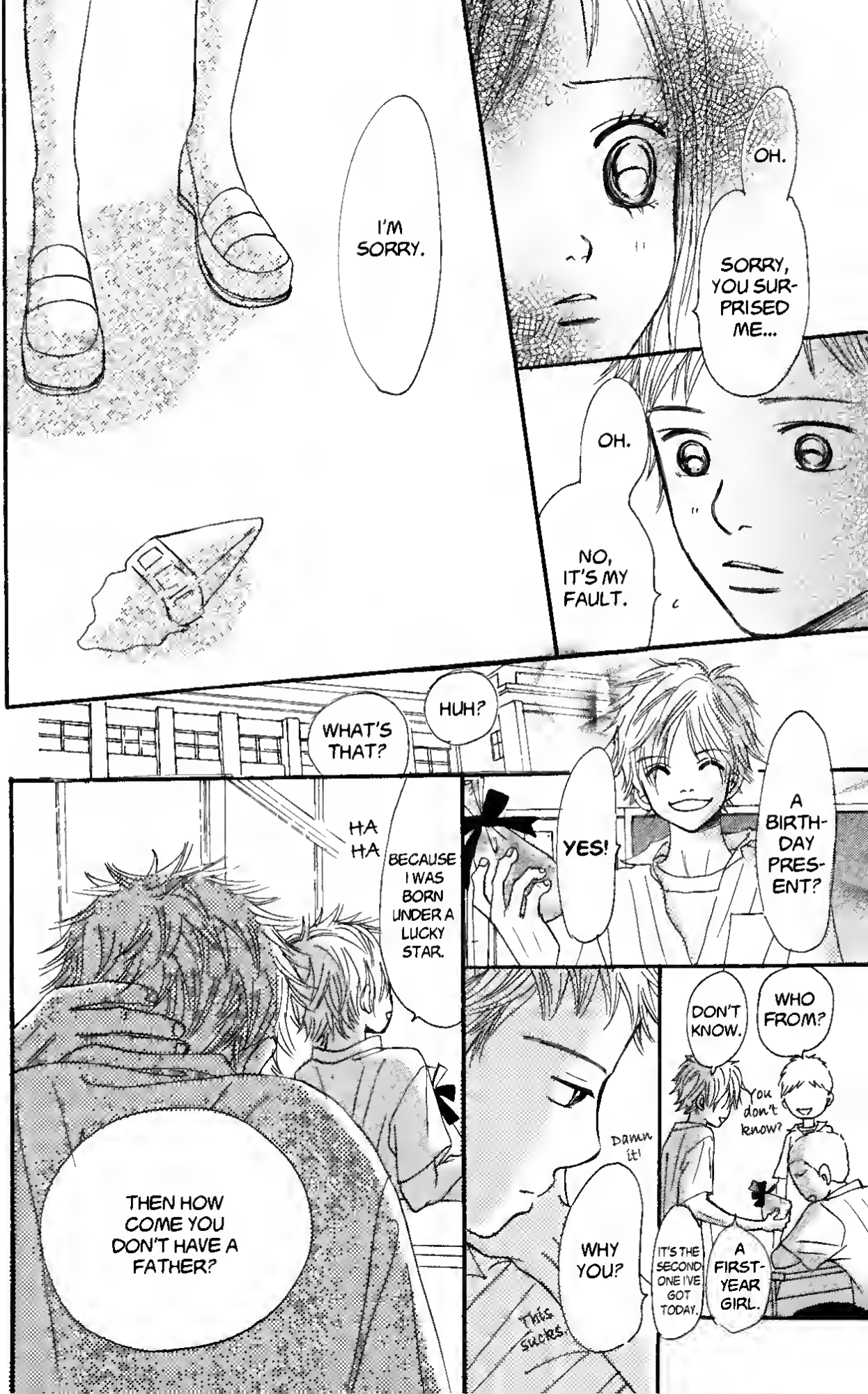
I'M GETTING...
...A BAD FEELING...
HA HA
REALLY...
YOU GUYS...
DON'T BUY THE WHITE CANDLES.

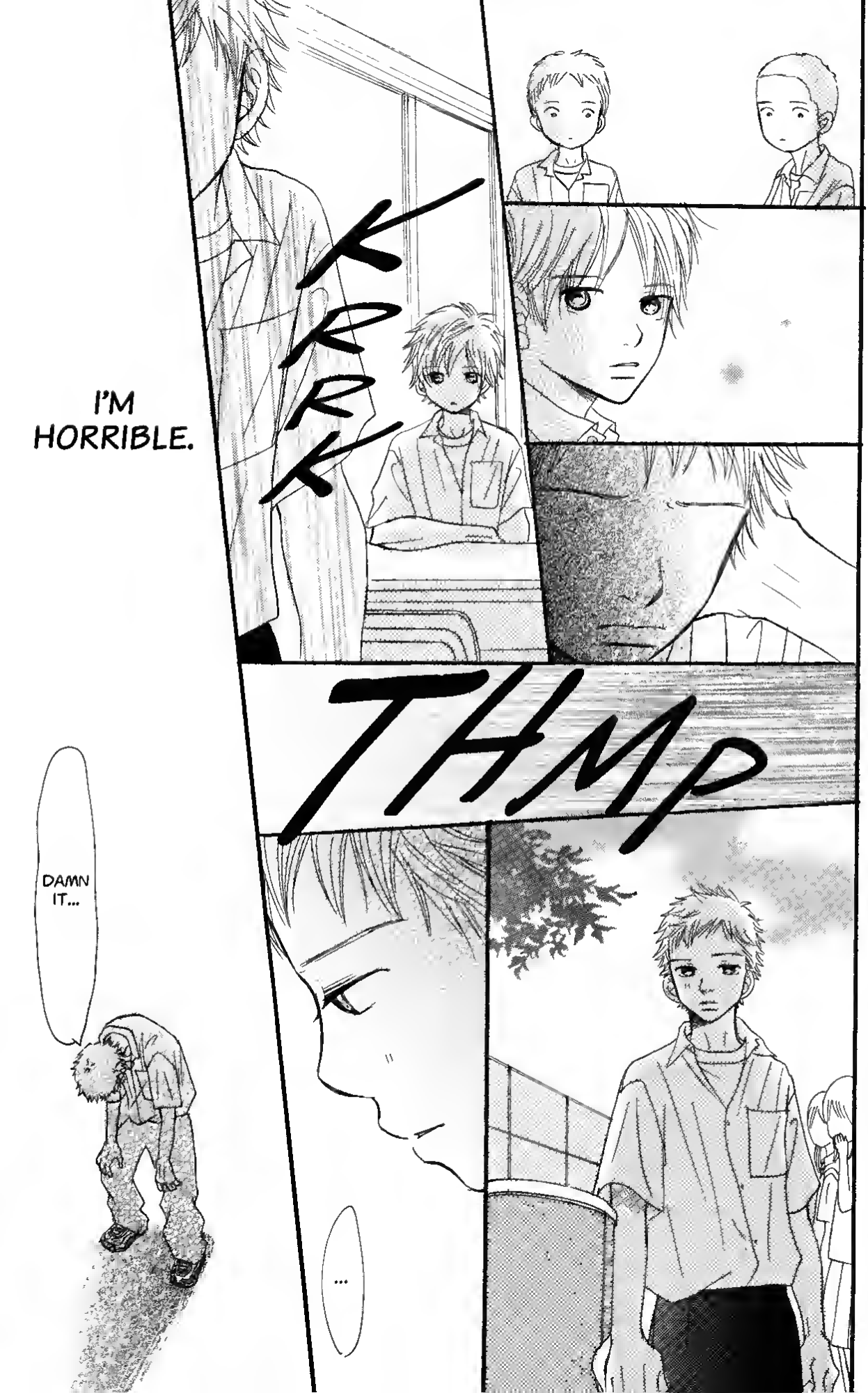

EH?
WHY NOT?
THE BOYS USUALLY BUY WHITE CANDLES...
...SO IF YOU'RE HOLDING ONE, THE BOYS WILL ASSUME THAT YOU'VE ALREADY SWAPPED CANDLES WITH SOMEONE.
I'M SO JEALOUS.
YOU HAVE SOMEONE TO SWAP YOUR CANDLE WITH, AZU...
...
Yeah!
I KNOW A BOY WHO WOULDN'T WANT YOU TO BE HOLDING A WHITE CANDLE, AZU...
EH?
WHO? WHO?
YOU KNOW, THE T GUY.
T-KUN.

GELATO
gelato
HERE.
BLACK CURRANT.
THANKS.
SHE DIDN'T GET STRAWBERRY.
YOU WANT TO SIT DOWN?
OH...
I'D RATHER WALK OUTSIDE.
...
...
OH.

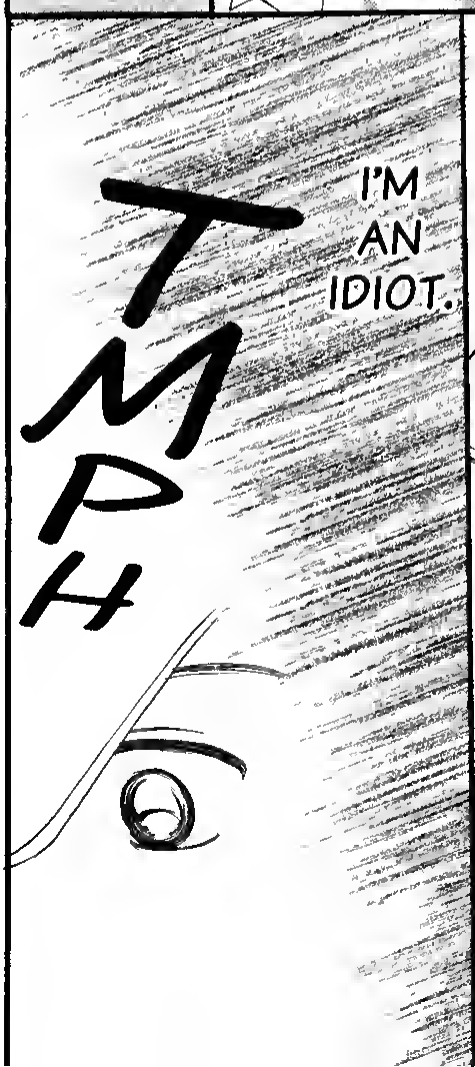

I'LL PAY.
NO.
THAT'S OKAY.
NO.
HERE.
100
100
BUT TREATING HER TO THE ICE CREAM...
...MAKES IT MORE SPECIAL.
Take-chan, are you on a date?
A DATE!
OH...
A DATE!
b y o o o


...FELT PRES-SURED.
I PROB-ABLY...
!
YOU

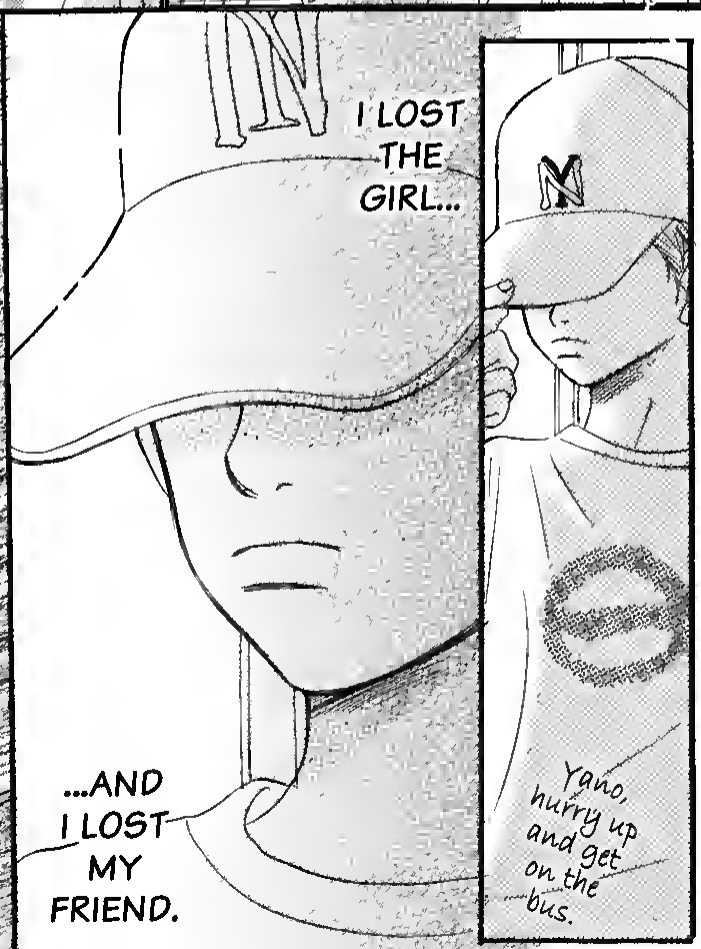

I'M SORRY.
OH.
SORRY, YOU SURPRISED ME...
OH.
NO, IT'S MY FAULT.
WHAT'S THAT?
HUH?
A BIRTHDAY PRESENT?
YES!
HA HA
BECAUSE I WAS BORN UNDER A LUCKY STAR.
THEN HOW COME YOU DON'T HAVE A FATHER?
DON'T KNOW.
WHO FROM?
you don't know?
damn it!
WHY YOU?
IT'S THE SECOND ONE I'VE GOT TODAY.
A FIRST-YEAR GIRL.
This sucks


I'M HORRIBLE.
KRRRK
THMP
DAMN IT...
...

HA HA HA
Azu, that's a cute hat.
...


I'M AN IDIOT.

TMPH


I LOST THE GIRL...
...AND I LOST MY FRIEND.
Yano, hurry up and get on the bus.

...
I'm going back to sleep
OH.
OKAY.
YOU GOT HERE EARLY.
I'M REALLY SORRY.
THAT CAP I BORROWED FROM YOU.
...
EH?
THE ONE I HAVEN'T GIVEN BACK FOR A WHILE. REMEMBER?
UM.
YEAH?
?
WELL...
TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH...
I WAS RIDING MY BIKE THE DAY I BORROWED IT...
...AND JUST WHEN I WAS PASSING OVER THE BRIDGE, THERE WAS A SUDDEN GUST OF WIND...

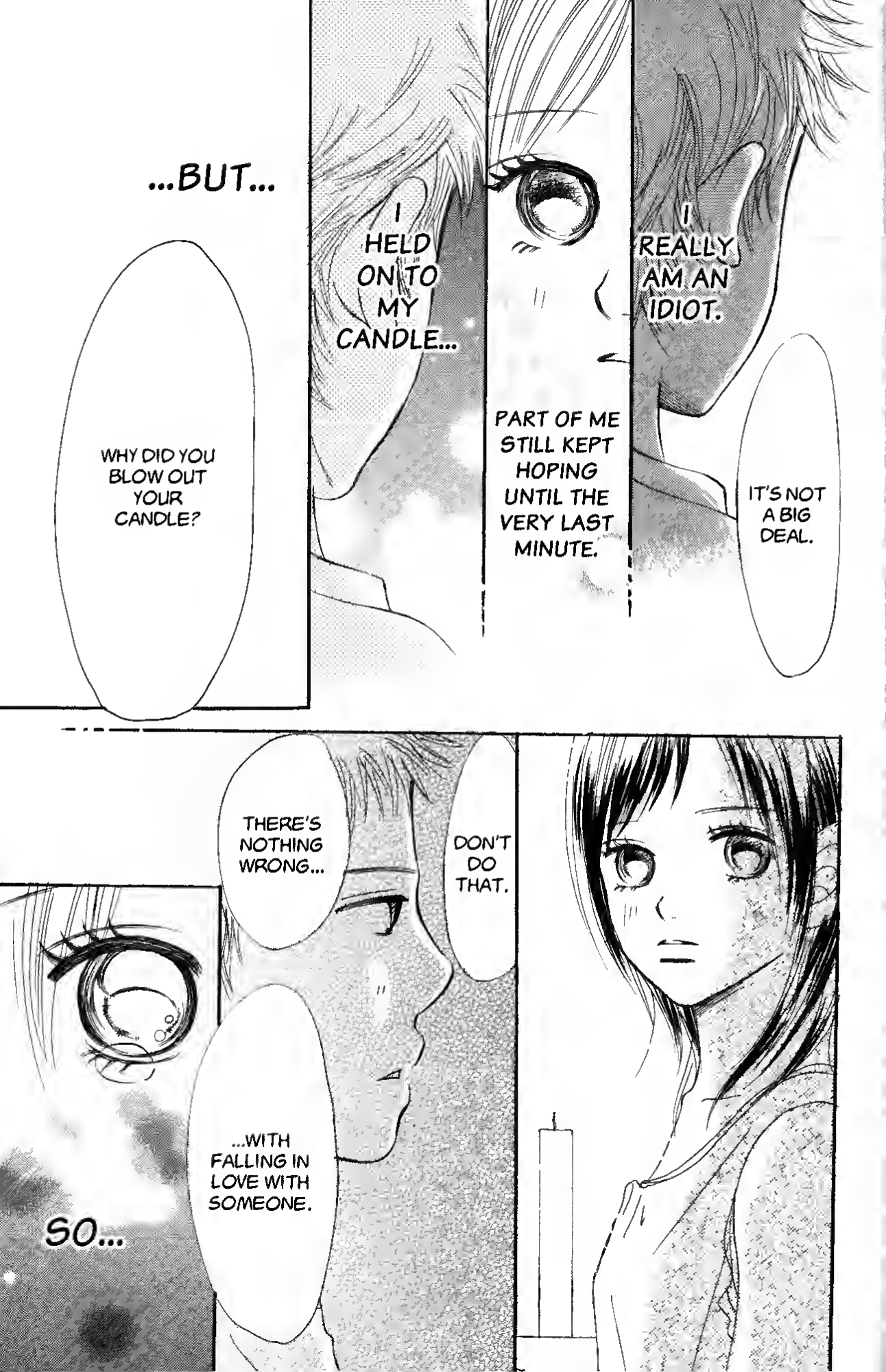
LIKE THAT.
WHOOOSH...
...
IT BLEW AWAY. ...
YOU KNOW...
21
SO WE'RE EVEN.
Why didn't you jump in the river and go get it?!
I REALLY LIKED THAT CAP.
Ah! Scary!
...
EVEN.
GYAH
The water is freezing!
21
HEY, DID YOU HAVE A FIGHT WITH TAKE OR SOMETHING?
HEY...
DID YOU SMUGGLE IN SOME BOOZE IN YOUR BAG?
I JUST...
21
...CAN'T WIN AGAINST HIM...
...CAN I?

RIGHT.
IT'S NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS, YANO.
NO...
shwa
YOU HAVE TO MAKE UP WITH HIM.
LEAVE ME ALONE.
GRAB
IT'S NOBODY'S FAULT...
YOU OKAY?
YEAH. I'M FINE.
slipped
AAAH!
shup
...
I DON'T KNOW WHEN TO GIVE UP, DO I?

Who's in charge of the bonfire?
It's starting to get cold.
HA HA
Hmph I'm tired
Ugh!
...
GOOD AT HIKING UP MOUNTAINS FOR SOME REASON
HE'S GOOD AT FINDING WHERE TO STEP.
THE PATH IS HARD TO WALK ON...
...SO YOU'D BETTER GO WITH YANO.
SOMETHING LIKE THIS WON'T DESTROY OUR FRIENDSHIP.
YEAH.
TAKE ...
DO YOU HAVE THE CANDLES FOR OUR GROUP?
MOTO.

I'VE GOT NO IDEA WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT.
DON'T UNDER-ESTIMATE ME.
YOU WILL.
SOON.
IT'S JUST ONE GIRL...
And the boat was washed ashore...
...THAT'S ALL.
The bright shining...
...river of stars...

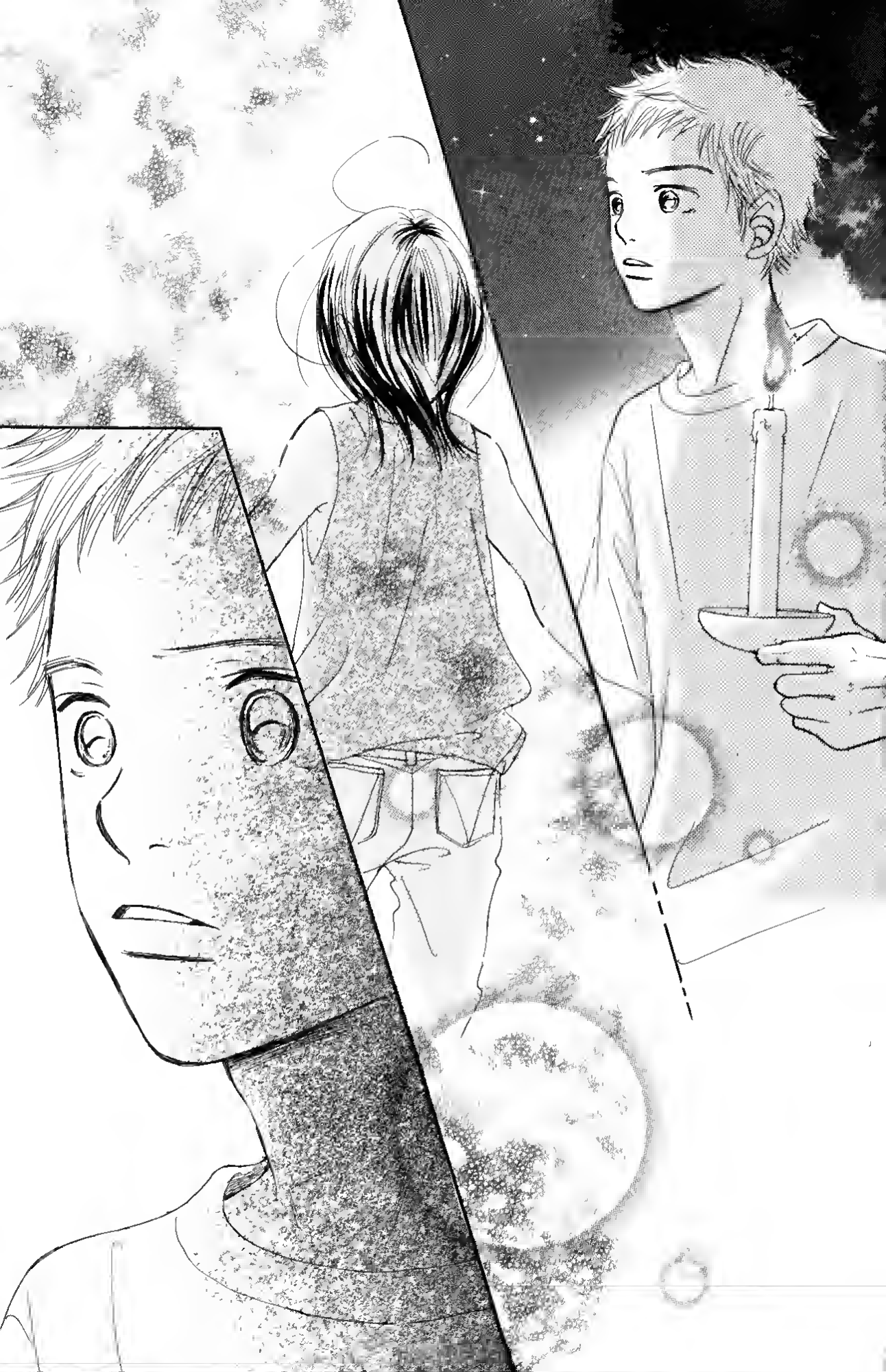
IN THE DARK SUMMER NIGHT...
...UNDER THE STARRY SKY...
...THE FIRES OF LOVE ARE BURNING.
HA HA HA
They're all doing it...
KYAH
Let's go.
HE ASKED ME!
HE ASKED ME TO SWAP CANDLES!
OH...
...
fssh
OUR CLASS ...
...SANG PRETTY WELL, RIGHT?
UM.
YES.
...
DON'T ...
...WORRY ABOUT ME.
I'M AN IDIOT.


...BUT...
I HELD ON TO MY CANDLE...
I REALLY AM AN IDIOT.
PART OF ME STILL KEPT HOPING UNTIL THE VERY LAST MINUTE.
IT'S NOT A BIG DEAL.
WHY DID YOU BLOW OUT YOUR CANDLE?
DON'T DO THAT.
THERE'S NOTHING WRONG...
...WITH FALLING IN LOVE WITH SOMEONE.
SO...

GO!
GO TELL HIM.
DON'T FEEL BAD ABOUT IT.
I'LL FORGET YOU ONCE I GRADUATE ANYWAY.
I'LL GO OUT WITH A HUNDRED GIRLS AFTER THIS...
YOU'RE JUST ONE OF MANY.

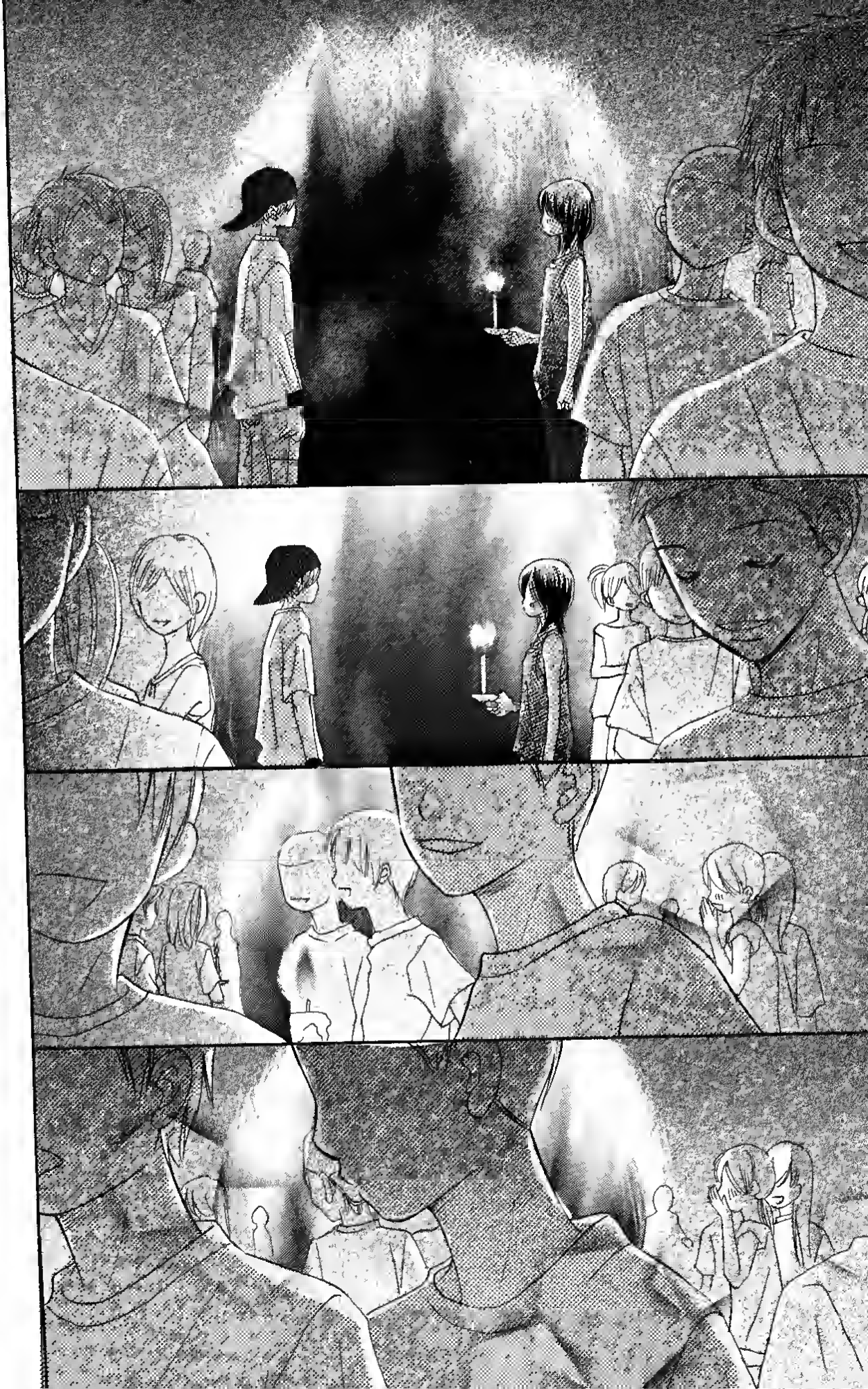
BRING YOUR CANDLE CLOSER...
YOU CAN HAVE MY LIGHT.

THANKS...
GO.
BEFORE THE FLAME GOES OUT.



MY WANDERING FEELINGS...
AND THE PURE, SWEET MELODY...
HA HA HA
THE LIGHT FROM THE STARS SHINING ABOVE...
...MOVE ACROSS THE NIGHT...
...MY LOVED ONE.
...ILLUMI-NATES...
...ILLUMI-NATES THE ISLANDS.
...AND MAY BECOME A STAR.

I CAN HEAR THE SOUND...
AS THE BOAT GLIDES OUT...
...INTO THE CLEAR DARK NIGHT...
THE BRIGHT SHINING RIVER OF STARS...
...OF THE FLUTE OF MY LOVED ONE.

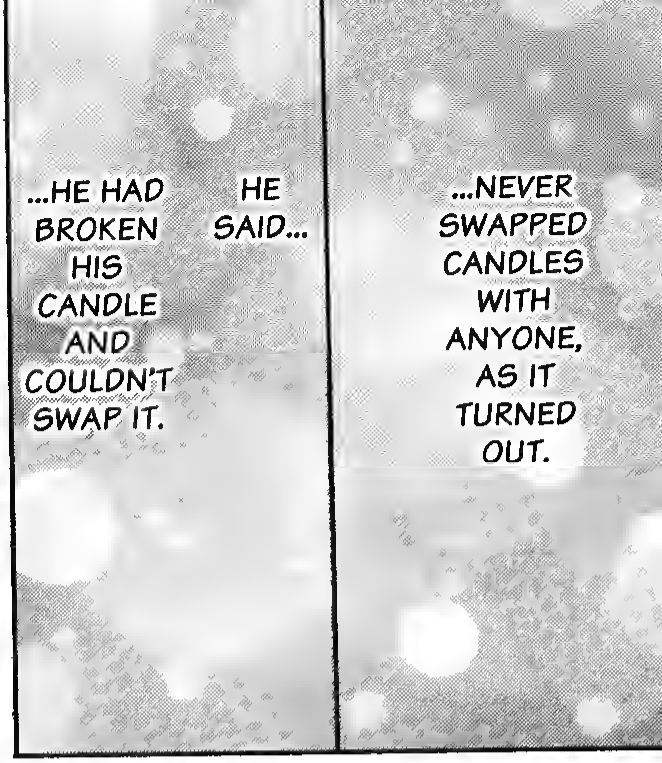


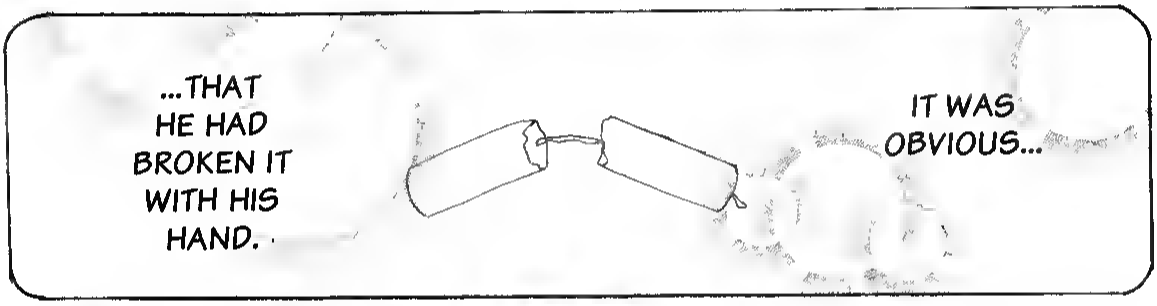
I WAS
14 YEARS
OLD.
IT WAS
SUMMER.

I WAS
IN
LOVE.

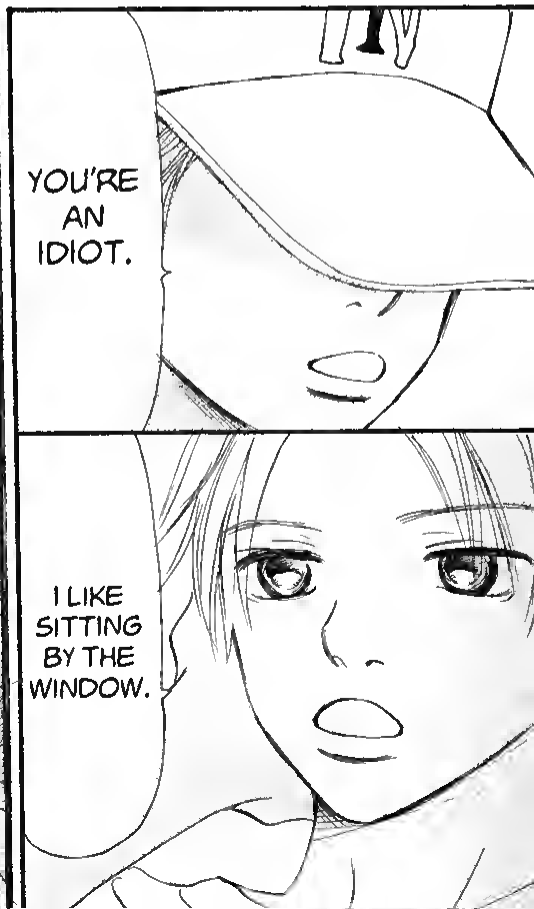
And then...
HA HA HA
...WAS THE EXACT OPPOSITE OF A MATCH-MAKING SONG, WASN'T IT?
HMM?
HEY... THIS SONG ...
You know...
HA HA
V o o o
MOTO...
HEH HEH
But it's perfect for you.
SHUT UP.
I KNOW THAT.
Shut up!

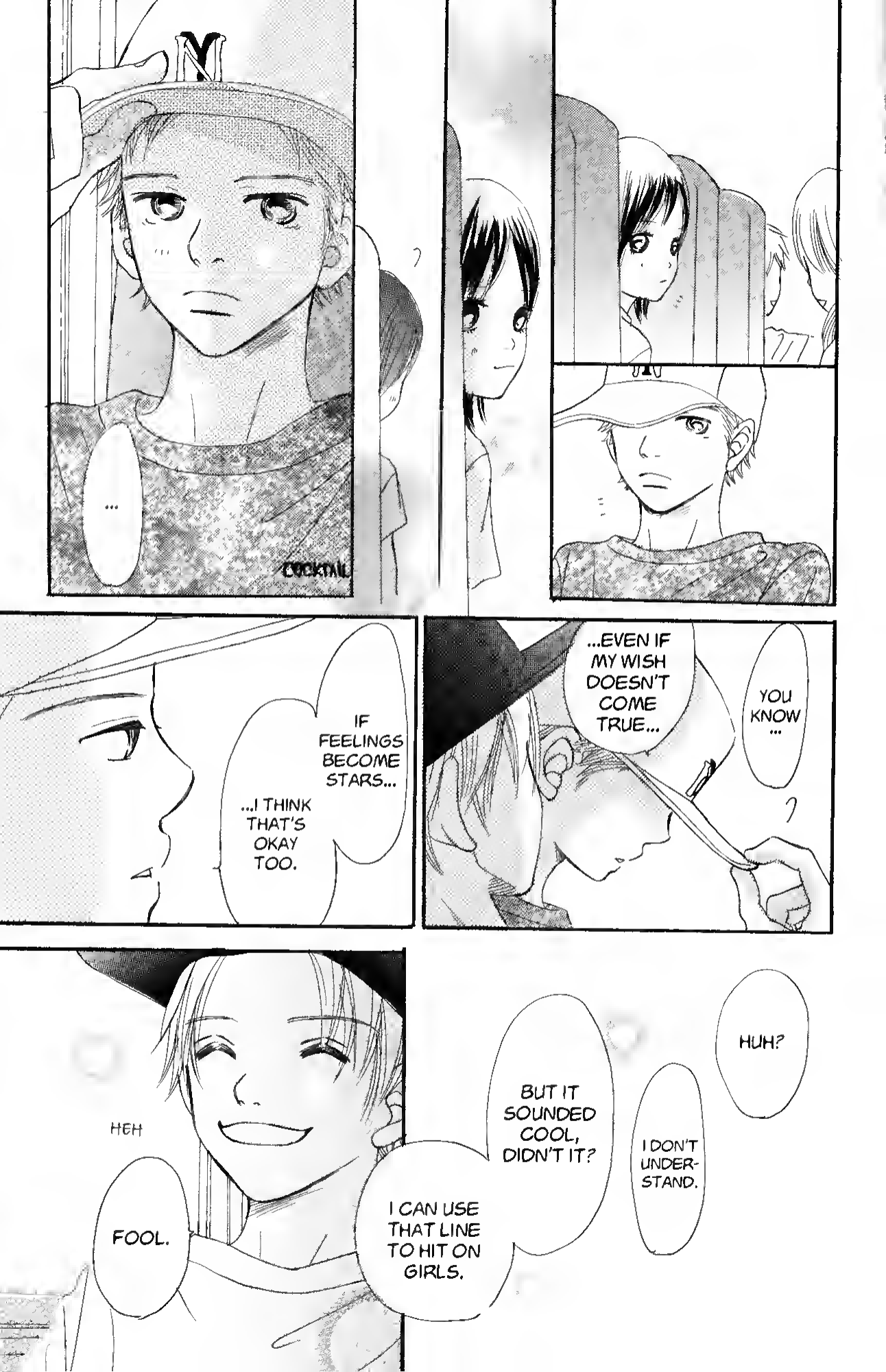
STOP LYING!
SHOW ME.
YOU SAT ON IT...?
SEE!!


...HE HAD BROKEN HIS CANDLE AND COULDN'T SWAP IT.
HE SAID...
...NEVER SWAPPED CANDLES WITH ANYONE, AS IT TURNED OUT.


...THAT HE HAD BROKEN IT WITH HIS HAND.
IT WAS OBVIOUS...

Woosh
Woosh
Woosh
Woosh


YOU'RE AN IDIOT.
I LIKE SITTING BY THE WINDOW.


...
COCKTAIL
YOU KNOW ...
...EVEN IF MY WISH DOESN'T COME TRUE...
IF FEELINGS BECOME STARS...
...I THINK THAT'S OKAY TOO.
HUH?
I DON'T UNDER-STAND.
BUT IT SOUNDED COOL, DIDN'T IT?
I CAN USE THAT LINE TO HIT ON GIRLS.
HEH
FOOL.

SHE BLEW OUT HER CANDLE.
My feelings remain as an afterglow of the stars in heaven
I'M... ... ABOUT HERE RIGHT NOW.
BY THE WAY...
AND HE BROKE HIS CANDLE IN HALF.
I KEPT AND WARMED MY FLAME.
THAT SUMS US UP.
...AND STRAIGHT-FORWARD.
RECK-LESS...
UNPRE-DICTABLE...
HEY, IS IT TRUE YOU SAID YOU'D GO OUT WITH A HUNDRED GIRLS?
AH!

...I'LL FALL IN LOVE AGAIN.
AND SURELY ONE DAY...

Notes

Honorifics

In Japan, people are usually addressed by their name followed by a suffix. The suffix shows familiarity or respect, depending on the relationship.
Male (familiar): first or last name + kun
Female (familiar): first or last name + chan
Adult (polite): last name + san
Upperclassman (polite): last name + senpai
Teacher or professional: last name + sensei
Close friends or lovers: first name only, no suffix

Nana-chan vs. Nana-san

Nanami's nickname is "Nana-chan." Yano's ex-girlfriend was a year older, so she was known as "Nana-san."

Terms

"Milk Coffee" is a very sweet coffee drink.
The folk song is in the Okinawan dialect, so the students find it difficult to understand.
Ne-chan means "older sister."
Aiai-gasa, or "sharing an umbrella," for a couple is thought to be romantic. The students are teasing Hayami and Takeuchi by writing their names under a drawing of an umbrella on the chalkboard.

"Run, Baby, Run" is a bonus story, but I wanted everybody to read it along with the main story, so I had it squeezed into the tankobon. Since there weren't enough pages, the story is two pages shorter than when it ran in the Japanese magazine, but I hope you all enjoy it.

–Yuki Obata

Yuki Obata's birthday is January 9. Her debut manga, *Raindrops*, won the Shogakukan Shinjin Comics Taisho Kasaku Award in 1998. Her current series, *We Were There* (*Bokura ga Ita*), won the 50th Shogakukan Manga Award and was adapted into an animated television series. She likes sweets, coffee, drinking with friends, and scary stories. Her hobby is browsing in bookshops.

We Were There

Vol. 5

The Shojo Beat Manga Edition

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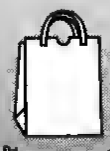

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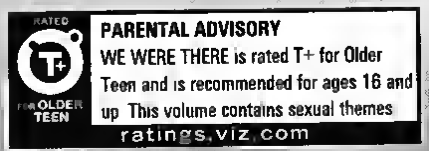
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